

## Life before white settlers

The history of South Whidbey didn't begin with the white man. For details see page 5.



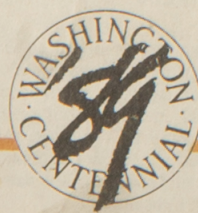
## Fairhaven at the dock

The Fairhaven at the Langley dock in 1913. For more on Langley's history see page 3.



# An Island In A State

## South Whidbey Island's first 100 years



The Dog House building in 1921 was first built to house sporting events for the town of Langley. Later the building became the Langley Merchantile owned by Walter J. and Oscar Hunziker, pictured in front. For much more on Langley's history, and for the history of Clinton and Freeland as well, see the stories inside this special historical section. (Photo courtesy of Walt Hunziker.)

## Join this imaginary South Whidbey tour on day of statehood

By LORNA CHERRY

Big events in life demand big attention, sort of like putting an exclamation point instead of a period at the end of a sentence. However, life is lived one day at a time, mostly with periods.

Big events rating exclamation points usually are highly personal experiences. Impersonal big events can shake up the world yet scarcely touch individuals.

When Washington graduated from a territory to a state it was a big event affecting the nation as well as a sizeable number of individuals who had worked hard for almost 10 years to bring it about. There was jubilation and celebration in Olympia, the capital of the new state but what was its effect on folks living in South Whidbey at that time? Did it fill their days with exclamation points?

There are no known records to prove how the news of Washington's statehood came to South Whidbey but there are records which show what the citizens were doing right at that time.

Let us pretend that there was a courier sent from Olympia to bring the news to the handful of settlers residing in the area. He would have been given a list of names of the people he should contact, the names having been taken from census records.

### Our first settler

The first name of his list would be Robert Bailey, South Whidbey's first permanent settler who had owned a farm and trading post ever since 1852 on the southern tip of Whidbey Island beside the bay which bore his name.

Our imaginary courier sailed his boat into the bay, shouting his big news. Folks were gathered beside a building on the shore and there appeared to be a lot of excitement, but nobody paid much attention to our courier and his news. The reason was because a really big personal event was in progress. Sixteen year old Laura Bailey and William Jewett, a young man who arrived from Indiana the previous year, were in the middle of a wedding.

Our courier didn't linger long but sailed out of the bay, around Skagit Head into Admiralty Inlet. The next name on his list was Mike Lyons who was supposed to have a home and logging operation on the location which later became Maxwellton. The house was there and so were signs that there once had been logging going on but everything appeared deserted. Our courier had no way of knowing that Mike Lyons and his wife had left the island and returned to the hotel they owned in Port Ludlow.

Somewhat dejected our courier sailed on north along the west coast of the island and into Useless Bay. Here things started looking up. He found people.

Away back in 1868 two adventurous young men, Edward Oliver and Thomas John Johns, had homesteaded property in the Deer Lagoon area. In the ensuing 20 years they had developed their land, done extensive logging, married, raised families and became solid citizens. News of Washington's statehood might have been received with interest by them except that a really big personal event was in progress right then. Mary Jane Johns was giving birth to a daughter, which event was causing quite a commotion.

Loath to try to upstage the stork our courier left Useless Bay, sailed around Double Bluff and into Mutiny Bay. Here, according to his list, he should find a prominent citizen named Nathaniel Porter.

As he rounded Windmill promontory and Willow Point came into view he gave a gasp of astonishment. Flames and smoke were rising to high heaven from a burning building on shore. Indians were running about shouting and a big, angry white man seemed to be chasing them.

Our courier didn't know what all this was about but he did know that he wanted to be long gone from the ruckus. The truth of the matter was that a large group of Indians had been holding a potlatch in their long house for several days, whooping it up and showing no signs of leaving. The racket and general goings-on were more than Madsen could tolerate so he was burning down their headquarters in the long house.

By now our gentleman with the news of statehood was quite discouraged. He was beginning to think that nobody on South Whidbey gave a tinker's darn whether they lived in a territory or a state. However, he still had a couple of important settlements on his list but they were on the eastern shore of the island.

### The eastern shore

He turned his boat around, retraced his route going south back to Skagit Head, then past Bailey's Bay. He wondered if the Baileys had settled down by now after the wedding but he was in no mood to stop and find out.

On he sailed around Possession Point and then north up the eastern shore until he came to the settlement shown on his list as Clinton. Things began to look promising. Clinton was real civilization with a dock, a store, a shingle mill and evidences of lively cord wood business.

He tied his boat up to the dock and, since there seemed to be nobody in sight, he headed for the store from which he could hear a babble of voices. His list said to ask for Edward or Henry Hinman, the owners of the store. He entered, pushed his way through an excited group of people, all talking at once and surrounding an important looking man who seemed to be in charge.

"I'm looking for Edward Hinman," our courier addressed the man. "Are you he?"

"No, I'm his brother, Henry. We are all looking for Edward too. Do you know anything about where he might be? He was supposed to be on the ship from Alaska that just docked in Seattle but we've just got word that only his belongings arrived. They think he was murdered for the big sack of gold he had mined and was bringing home. We are just getting ready to leave for Seattle, claim his things and see if we can find out what happened to him. Why are you here?"

"I've come to deliver the news that the president of the United States has finally signed a bill making Washington the 42nd state in the Union."

"That is really great news," Hinman answered politely but he obviously had his mind on the other matter. "I'd be right proud to talk to you about this important matter but at some other time. Not right now."

# South Whidbey pioneer families forged new lives from wilderness

By LORINDA KAY  
Record reporter

The unknown unexplored wilderness of South Whidbey intrigued only a handful of white settlers prior to 1889 when Washington became a state. These few pioneers were greeted by an untamed land with huge dense forests of fir, hemlock and cedar.

For many early settlers their only neighbors were the Indians who enjoyed the pristine wilderness of South Whidbey long before the arrival of the white man. Many of those first pioneers married Indian women and established large families, leaving many descendants of white and Indian origin.

Certainly not every settler is covered in this story but a substantial number of the first settlers prior to the 1900's are here. This information was condensed from the books written by Lorna Cherry called *South Whidbey and Its People*. Thanks to her efforts and the efforts of the South Whidbey Historical Society these stories will be available to the future generations of South Whidbey, giving a look at the lifestyles of those first settlers.

The first recorded white land owner on South Whidbey was a young man from Virginia, Robert Bailey, who came to the Indian village of Digwadsh on the southern tip of the island in 1850. He was a 26 year old trader intent on doing business with the Indians, but decided to stay on the beautiful, horseshoe shaped bay which was later to bear his name, Bailey's Bay. Today that bay is

known as Cultus Bay.

On Sept. 1, 1852 he filed a claim in the U.S. Land Patent office in Washington D.C. Bailey married a woman from the Digwadsh village and established a home and a trading post on his land.

By 1859 he had become the Indian agent for the Snohomish, Snoqualmie, Skykomish and Stillaquamish tribes totaling about 1600 members. He and his wife also became the parents of two sons and a daughter.

His son Henry married a Digwadsh girl and they had two sons, Henry and George and a daughter, Laura. The year Laura was 16, William Jewett arrived from Indiana and took out homestead rights on the land next to the Baileys. The following year, 1889, he and Laura were married.

William Jewett built a house on his property and he and Laura developed a farm and raised a family of three children, Eva Grace, Joseph and Elmer.

Bailey Road still carries Robert Bailey's name and connects the Scatchet Head area with Maxwellton. Jewett Road, which leads from Bailey Road to Glendale Road, was named for William Jewett. Remnants of the Indian village of Digwadsh and the adjacent Indian burial ground, are found occasionally around the bay.

Another white settler, William T. Johnson, settled on Double Bluff about the same time that Bailey was establishing a home.

Few written records concerning



Nathaniel Porter came to the island in 1859 after a colorful career as a seaman, cavalryman and farmer. One of the earliest pioneers of South Whidbey, Porter was an important leader in the community. Photo courtesy of Gloria Porter Campbell.

him have been located, although Jacob Anthes, in his memoirs, refers to having visited a Mr. Johnson living in the vicinity of Double Bluff in 1880.

The actual date of Johnson's arrival is not known but it is known that he took an Indian girl, Gah-toh-litsa, born in 1860, as his wife. She was closely related to one of the Snohomish tribal chiefs and the land upon which Johnson and his wife settled apparently was tribal

land belonging to her. According to her great grandson, Robert Porter of Langley, her English name was Jane Newberry.

William Johnson and Gah-toh-litsa had several children, including a daughter, Louisa. They were farmers and it was Johnson's custom to row across Admiralty Inlet periodically with a boat load of vegetables and other produce to be sold or traded at Port Townsend. During

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## Special section made possible by contributors

Washington State is 100 years old, good reason to celebrate and reflect how far we have come over the last century. It is also a time to recall the stories of the pioneers who carved out a life in this wilderness and shaped a civilization for future generations to enjoy.

This special section of The Record edition pays tribute to the people who came to South Whidbey Island in those early years before and after statehood, from the 1880's to the early 1900's.

Certainly recapturing the history of South Whidbey is a tremendous job that could not be completed in this small edition. But hopefully through the following stories a glimpse of the people and their lifestyles will be captured and imaginations stirred.

Many contributions to this special edition have been given and deserve special thanks. Without efforts of Lorna Cherry and the South Whidbey Historical Society, many of the stories would not be possible.

Through their efforts local history has been captured in three volumes titled "South Whidbey and Its People." Written by Cherry, they are the fundamental research texts for this edition. If this section piques anyone's interest about our history, we strongly sug-

gest they purchase the books. Cherry also contributed original articles for this historical section.

Also deserving special thanks for their written contributions to this edition are: Gloria Campbell, a diligent researcher of local history; Linda Porter, a student of local Indian history; and The Record staff contributors including Sue Ellen White-Hansen and Casey O'Keefe.

Photos for this edition were contributed by the South Whidbey Historical Society, Walt Hunziker, William Smith, Harry Josephson, Gloria Campbell, Marie Burley, Bonnie Cameron and the Corbleys.

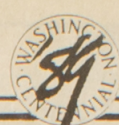
Without the help of these people and more, this historical section about South Whidbey's history would not have been possible.

Because of the large number of stories and photographs collected for this centennial edition, which could not be contained within this publication, many more articles will be seen in The Record through November.

Lorinda Kay  
Special section editor

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# Socialists start Freeland, others make it prosper

By LORINDA KAY  
Record reporter

At the southern end of Holmes Harbor a unique community was established with the promise of free land and equally shared profits for all its members. The group has long since disbanded but the community of Freeland still bears the namesake of that bright hope.

A band of Socialists, an off-shoot of the Equality colony in Skagit County, came to this area in 1900 to settle the land and build their own Utopia.

The Whidbey project was sponsored by a Seattle company under the direction of James Gleason who owned the land around the harbor.

Each member of the Free Land Association was to have a five acre plot upon which to build a home and farm.

The members paid \$10 down on the property and the rest of the payments were to be made from the profits of the cooperative enterprises.

The official newspaper of the group was the Whidby Islander which carried the by-laws of the association, an editorial platform and news of the struggle to keep the community alive.

The socialist colony owned the Freeland Cooperative store at Holmes Harbor, set aside land for a cooperative mill and built the Freeland Community Hall which still stands today.

The hall was built on five acres of land donated by the Socialist group in 1912. Colony members donated their time and materials and were to be paid as revenue was received for the use of the hall.

William Lieseke, a leader in the original Free Land Association, held the deed to the property in trust and a copy of the original document dedicating the property to the "people" with no government agency to have any control.

By 1903 cooperative ventures were beginning to phase out for the colony. The cooperative mill had not developed and many members went to work in logging camps owned by private enterprise.

The cooperative wholesale store in Seattle, which was the supply source for the Freeland store, failed and contributed to the failure of the



The Spencer store and post office on Holmes Harbor was the center of activity in early-day Freeland. On the right is the Spencer home which was later remodeled and is now the Pillars by the Sea Bed and Breakfast. The Spencers include Sarah Adams Spencer, left, Hudson Spencer, Carrie, Margerie, Hugh, Arlene, Arthur and Ethel Partridge Spencer. Photo was taken sometime between 1916 and 1919. (Photo courtesy of Bonnie Cameron)

local store. The Freeland store ceased operation, until Henry Blair re-opened it and operated it until 1917 when J. H. Prather and Wilbur Hazen took over and continued it as a cooperative venture.

In April 15, 1903 the editors of the Whidby Islander announced the paper's probable demise but made a valiant attempt to gain support for the socialists.

## Socialist colony struggles

The colony struggled for existence for the next 10 years. Several members moved away but others remained to become integrated into the overall life of the community, such as William Lieseke, who continued to play an important part in Freeland's development.

But there were other families in the area not connected with the So-

cialist colony, who were setting up homes, businesses and farms in the area at the same time the Freeland colony had arrived. The political differences of the two factions led to the mistrust and often open animosity between the two factions of the struggling community.

Other early pioneers to the Holmes Harbor area included the family of Hudson and Sarah Spencer who were originally from Massachusetts.

In 1904 the Spencers moved to the newly developing area called Freeland with their grown children, Percy, Minnie, and Arthur. They also brought their daughter-in-law, Carrie, whose husband, Hugh, was a tugboat captain and spent much of his time at sea.

The family purchased land and the various members set about developing homes and businesses, including the Harbor Cash Store, owned by Hudson and Sarah, but all members of the family worked in it at one time or another.

## Spencer family businesses

Family members established a machine shop, a dock, a sawmill and a log peeling factory for making mining props which were shipped to Mexico aboard the freighter, Providencia.

The Spencer men also had a logging operation a few miles up the west shore of Holmes Harbor near a spot known as Dogfish Bay.

The women in the Spencer family as well as other community women were active organizing themselves into a charitable and cultural society.

In 1902 a group started for the purpose of sewing and otherwise helping the less fortunate members of the community.

The group became known as "The First Thursday Club" and added cultural activities to its activities including book reviews, study classes and home talent plays.

After the completion of the Freeland Hall the club held most of its meetings and drama presentations in the new hall.

Various members of the Spencer family operated the Freeland Post Office for 35 years between 1914 and 1950. The post office was first established on September 25, 1901 with Postmaster Martin Davison who remained there until June of 1904 when the office was discontinued for lack of business.

The office was re-established on April 24, 1914, with Hudson Spencer as postmaster. He conducted the office along with a grocery and variety store for the next 20 years

until he retired in 1934 and his son, Percy Spencer was appointed postmaster.

## The Austin Store

Another landmark in the Freeland area was the old Austin Store run by Austin "Deke" Marshall from 1937 to 1966. The store is now occupied by the Gay 90's Pizza House just off Highway 525.

Austin's father T. H. Marshall pioneered the area at Mutiny Bay prior to 1880. That area was once called Austin, named by Marshall's father who filed the original deed about 1900 in order to establish a post office there.

Deke was born in Langley in 1894 and attended the second school built in the Austin area just up the beach from the Mutiny Bay Resort.

Deke became a well known "native son" of the Freeland area and is still long remembered after his death in January 1974.

Other early pioneers in the Bush Point area were Christine and William Dow who came to the island in 1905.

They are remembered today by their granddaughter, Madilyn Permenter who gave the following account of their lives.

There were 10 children that ac-

companied William and Christine from Iowa to Whidbey Island. Their youngest child was born on the island.

"They bought property from the Oliver family who lived at Double Bluff," Madilyn recalled.

The Dows built a log house from trees on their property. William was hurt during a logging operation when he was skidding logs down the beach.

"He couldn't work much after that," Madilyn said.

But she remembers her grandmother, Christine, took on much of the work around the farm.

"She put in the hay, and that was in the days before bailing." She also raised the garden, canned and butchered."

"My Grandmother was from Denmark and came to the United States when she was eight years old," Madilyn said.

Christine never attended an American school but she was a great speller and never spoke with an accent. She taught herself to read and write in English and was an avid reader.

Madilyn recalls that nothing ever went to waste on her grandparents farm. When a hog was butchered the head was made into head cheese, the blood was used for pudding and the pigs feet were pickled.

The only thing Madilyn recalls about these delicacies was "not liking them very much."

## Bayview area develops

The first store in the Bayview area was located at the end of the lagoon in the Useless Bay area and was built and operated by Ernie Meyers around 1908.

A small warehouse on the shore of the lagoon just below the store had a loading dock for the boat which brought in shipments of goods on high tide.

Meyers also operated a feed and grain business. The store burned in 1916 and was not rebuilt because the lagoon was diked shortly afterward in 1918 and navigation there ceased.

But in 1924 William Burk built a new general store a quarter of a mile northeast of the one that had burned.

It was situated on what was then the main road to Coupeville and named The Bayview Cash Store. The Burks operated the store for about six years, selling it to Harold Johnston in 1930.

The store became a community landmark during the years it was owned by Johnston prior to his retirement.

Today the building is owned by Bill Lanning, Jr. who operates Bill's Feed and Tack.

## Signs of Change



Hope Supermarket opens at Ken's Korner Plaza, Clinton, in 1980.

# Mark & Pak

Myers' Mark & Pak, owned by Kent Myers, replaces Hope Supermarket.



In March 1989, Myer's Mark & Pak changes to a full service grocery store, featuring meat, deli, video, grocery, floral and catering departments, with increased variety throughout the store.

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## KEN'S KORNER

Ken's Korner, located at the intersection of State Highway 525 and the Langley-Cultus Bay roads, was originally settled by a bachelor farmer in the 1920's. When his cabin burned, the farmer left the area and his land was incorporated into the Waterman Mill property. In 1932, at the present site of Naomi's Texaco, "Windy" Wilson opened the first machine shop on South Whidbey Island. The machine shop was eventually sold to a Mr. Riers, and the area was known as Rier's Corner for a while. The site was purchased by Ken Paulson, who turned the garage and machine shop into a general store. The business property was called Ken's Korner, the name which now identifies the entire area. In 1969, the store burned. It was replaced by the present service station and convenience store.

In 1980 Ken's Korner Shopping Plaza was constructed, which contained South Whidbey Shoes, Dolly's Clothing, South Whidbey Sports, Island Fabrics Etc., a hairdresser and a restaurant. In 1984, Peppers Restaurant replaced the original restaurant, South Whidbey Business Services began business, and Lauren's Hair Plus moved to the Plaza. In 1985 Fashions Unlimited replaced Dolly's, and in 1988 Lightning joined the other shops. Myers' Mark & Pak opened in 1981, and in March 1989 the grocery changed to Myer's Red Apple Market.

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In the 15 years Clinton's only nursery has been in existence, it has grown from a small nursery with some cut flowers to the largest nursery and florist on South Whidbey Island. Robert Sjodin purchased the business from Wiley Wood Nursery in 1985, and quickly added an



expanded floral department. Within a year of the purchase, Clinton Nursery and Florist had a full service florist with wire service and local delivery anywhere between Clinton and Coupeville. The nursery continued to grow. Clinton Nursery and Florist specialized in unusual plants for the yard, with special

emphasis on roses. In 1989, the nursery will be carrying over 800 rose plants, with close to 100 varieties. Clinton Nursery provides help with plant questions and problems. When purchasing plants, ask about the plant guarantee.

Clinton Nursery and Florist has continued to grow. Suzanne Garvey, professionally trained floral designer, prepares award-winning arrangements for weddings, holidays, funeral or any special occasion. Peggy Blackburn, newest member of the Clinton Nursery and Florist staff, helps in the nursery and floral areas.

When you're looking for a special or unusual item, or large quantities of more common varieties, Clinton Nursery and Florist can have the items at the shop in 3 to 5 days, depending upon availability locally (off island). Like any smaller nursery, Clinton Nursery and Florist can't carry everything, but they do their best to find what you need.



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# Langley's story begins as young Jacob Anthes stakes out his own city

By LORINDA KAY  
Record reporter

The story of Langley, the only incorporated city on South Whidbey, begins with a 15 year old boy from Germany named Jacob Anthes who came to the forest wilderness in the fall of 1880.

Anthes was hired to hold down a homestead for a man named Pat Quinn whom he met in Seattle. Anthes arrived at the homestead located in the area that is Langley today, to find the home was really a shack about 10 by 12 feet in size with a leaking roof and surrounded by woods and ferns.

He lived on the homestead only a short time when another couple arrived to take over the job for Quinn. But Anthes was destined to stay on the island which he considered a paradise.

Anthes found work clearing a cattle trail to the Van Zand's farm at Sandy Point.

He explored the southend of the island and met most of the early settlers, according to his own story printed in Lorna Cherry's book "Langley, The Village by the Sea."

Since Anthes was too young to file a homestead, Joseph Brown, an early settler at Sandy Point, encouraged young Anthes to purchase land.

In 1881 Anthes purchased 120 acres of land from John Phinney for \$100 about one-half mile west of Langley.

Anthes worked at cutting cord wood to supply steamers traveling Saratoga Passage.

When he was 21 he filed a home-

stead of 160 acres adjoining the present town of Langley and filed a timber claim which earned him sufficient money in the logging operation to pay for the claim.

In 1889, during the building of the Great Northern Railway to the coast, the laying out of townsites became a mania, according to Anthes' story.

## Langley Land Company

Since Anthes could not finance such a project by himself, he succeeded in convincing Judge J. W. Langley of Seattle to form the Langley Land and Improvement Company in 1889.

A townsit was surveyed and platted and named for Judge Langley. A dock was built, a hotel erected and several small cottages built.

Anthes built a residence which he and his wife Leafy and their four children lived in for 18 years.

In 1891 Anthes built the first store in Langley, established a post office and became the first postmaster.

Anthes continued to own the majority of the Langley area until about 1905 when ownership in the business community had become decentralized.

Names appearing prominently in Langley affairs after 1905 included Hunziker, McLeod, Howard, Furman, McGinnis, Anderson, Coe, Strawbridge, Catron, Bainter, Funk, Simon, Jensen, Melsen and later, in the 1920's Noble, Primavera and Clyde.

John Frederick Hunziker arrived in Langley in 1899 and settled his family on five acres he bought from Anthes fronting what is now Sixth Street.

For over 60 years the house was known as 'The Hunziker Place.'

John Hunziker and his wife Madeline left their native home in London to serve the Church of England as missionaries to the natives of Patagonia in South America. After John retired and tried living for a time in the Falkland Islands he came to the United States where opportunities were greater for his family.

Walter Hunziker, grandson of John, still resides in Langley on a portion of his grandfather's original farm. Hunziker recalls stories he heard from his father about what the town was like in the late 1800's.

The dock was built at the end of Anthes Street below where the Dog House tavern is now, according to Hunziker. There was no Second or Fourth Street from Anthes to Camano or Sixth Street from Anderson to Park.

Maple trees lined First and Anthes streets. The Sternwheeler Fairhaven served the town traveling from Everett to Camano and La Conner. The boat came back by way of Oak Harbor and Coupeville every other day.

Anthes had a prune orchard and a prune kiln to dry the fruit. The Indians helped pick the prunes with all the rejects going into big barrels to be made into potent prune jack which was sold to the Indians.

There was only one store and post office, owned by Anthes, which was in the area the Clyde Building occupies now.

John Hunziker started a fruit farm on five acres in the area of Sixth and Anderson streets. The produce was shipped to Seattle.



The first store in Langley, Anthes General Store about 1895. The store was located on the site the Clyde Building now occupies. (Photo courtesy of the South Whidbey Historical Society.)

A major industry was cutting brush which grew up after the area had been logged. The brush was hauled to Seattle for fill on the waterfront.

The only community building was the Union Hall with a stage where plays and other gatherings were enjoyed.

"My Grandfather came out West from Minnesota and was not familiar with Western phrases," Hunziker said.

One day an Indian squaw, who spoke little English, came to the Hunziker's home with a large salmon to sell.

## Early days stories

"My Grandfather, not knowing what two bits was, offered her two nickles. She refused. He then tried putting two dimes in her hand, and she again said 'no, two bits,' but she took the money anyway."

She left but returned the next week with her husband leading her by several steps.

The husband cleared up the matter by saying, "Two bits - a quarter - 25 cents."

That was John's first lesson in Western slang.

Life in the frontier had lots of scary moments which Hunziker recalls in another story about his grandfather.

"He was standing on the porch one night expecting his oldest son home, when he saw a large form in the darkness."

John called out, "Is that you Fred?"

The dark form came closer but never answered. John stepped back

and knocked over the slop bucket making quite a racket which scared off the stranger. The next morning the Hunzikers were amazed to find bear tracks right where the dark form had appeared.

The Hunziker and the Howard families were closely intertwined. John's son Walt Sr. married Alice Howard whose family arrived from Nebraska in 1900.

Edward Howard built a hotel which was located where the new Inn at Langley is being built. The Howards also built a general merchandise store on First Street, directly across from the Anthes Emporium. He was soon appointed postmaster to replace Anthes.

There was another hotel in Langley during the early years called The Cooper which burned in 1921. It was located where the stain glass studio now sits, according to Hunziker.

Another Langley landmark, The Dog House, was built by local businessmen in September, 1908 as a club house for sporting events. It was called the Olympic Athletic

Club. Accounts of the sporting events are covered in the entertainment story in this issue.

After a struggling beginning the building was taken over by Ed Howard who re-established his general store on the ground floor. Three years later he turned the store over to his son-in-law, Walter Hunziker Sr. and Walter's brother, Oscar. The store was christened the Langley Mercantile and General Merchandise and became a popular place for residents to meet and visit.

Vella Howard eventually took over the building and at the end of prohibition she converted the main floor into a tavern which became known as The Dog House.

In 1913 several energetic citizens decided that Langley should become an independent, self-governing, incorporated town. The town elected F. E. Furman as its first mayor.

There were many others who have played a large role in Langley's history throughout the years, as the town, once only a forest wilderness, continues to grow.



Burning of the old Cooper Hotel in Langley on the site where the glass studio and gallery is today. The hotel burned in 1921. (Photo courtesy of Walt Hunziker.)



Logging in Langley in 1908. Photo includes Geo. Swain, W.J. Hunziker, Edward Howard, Billy Foster and Bill Howard on a huge cedar log at the corner of First and Anthes. In back is the Howard Store and Post Office.



## ORIGINAL W.W.I. OFFICERS' QUARTERS



Fort Casey Inn, circa 1909, is former Officers' Quarters restored to their splendor and romantic patriotism. Built for the then active defensive installation of Fort Casey, the Inn is located next door to Fort Casey State Park which encompasses the fort, bunkers and 10-inch disappearing guns. Guests to Fort Casey Inn are provided with a refurbished Georgian Revival 2-bedroom house.

Fort Casey was one of the three coastal defense forts at the entrance of Admiralty Inlet, joining Fort Flagler and Fort Worden. The fort, activated in 1900, was named for Brig. General Thomas Lincoln Casey, Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army.

Fort Casey Inn was purchased in 1956 from the U.S. Government at a public auction by the Hoenig Family, which has opened the homes to guests for the past 33 years. Fort Casey Inn is the only privately owned former officers' quarters in the state of Washington. Built to withstand attacks on Fort Casey, the houses were built with reinforced basements for use as bomb shelters. Several of the houses retain their steel shuttered windows.

Attached to the Fort Casey Inn property is the original physicians' quarters used to house the fort doctor. The first physician was Dr. E. H. Sargent, an army contract doctor, who arrived with the original 30-man army detachment prior to completion of the fort. Dr. Sargent stayed with the detachment officer, Lt. Alfred D. Putnam, until his own quarters were completed. He supervised the building of the dispensary and hospital, located just behind his house, where he treated the townspeople as well as the soldiers. The dispensary and hospital are gone, although the steps to the hospital remain in the woods behind the newly restored physicians' quarters.

By 1908 Fort Casey was in full operation and ranked as the fourth largest military post in the state, having a staff of ten officers and 428 men. The big guns at the fort were first fired on September 11, 1901.

Guests can spend time browsing through the shops of historic Coupeville, located five minutes away by car, or take the Port Townsend/Keystone Ferry (.9 miles from the Inn) to the wonderful shops and ambience of the Port Townsend community. Whidbey Island has countless activities to offer, from many sites of early frontier living to spectacular Deception Pass, only a short scenic drive from the Inn.

In addition to exploring the fort, guests are invited to enjoy the public beaches and trails at Fort Casey State Park. Spectacular views of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Olympic and Cascade mountains and San Juan Island are within walking distance. The Inn overlooks Crockett Lake, a natural bird sanctuary and Admiralty Bay on Puget Sound.

Reservations may be made by sending the first night's lodgings as a deposit. Cancellations must be made no later than one week in advance to receive a refund (\$10 cancellation fee). Rates may be subject to seasonal change. Smoking only on front porch. No pets, please. Rates: \$85.00 for 2 bedrooms, bath, living area and farm kitchen. Check-in time: 3-7 p.m.; check out time: 11 a.m.



## Fort Casey Inn

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The "Island County News" was first published on June 5, 1884, but lasted for only a few issues. On March 21, 1890 the first "Island County Sun", under the ownership of Charles W. Angel, was mailed to subscribers. A second paper, the "Island County Times", was established in 1891 as a result of "liberal" sermons published in the Sun.

On June 1, 1894 E. G. Earle, managing editor of the "Walla Walla Union" purchased the Sun and the Times, consolidating them under the name of the Island County Times.

"The Whidbey Island," an eight page twice monthly newspaper, published in Freeland by DeForest and Ethel Sanford beginning in 1900. The Sanfords were members of the Socialist group which had established the Free Land Community. On April 15, 1903 the editors of the "Whidbey Islander" announced the paper's probable demise.

The South Whidbey Record was established in 1923.

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## Island County Republican Central Committee

### Objective of the ICRC

The objective of the Island County Republican Central Committee is to facilitate cooperation among all Island County Republicans for the purpose of:

- Identifying and electing intelligent, honest Republican candidates to County, State, and Federal positions.
- To encourage registered voters to participate, and to vote Republican.

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# South Whidbey's pioneer folks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

one of these trips in February, 1886, having transacted his business in Port Townsend where he received a considerable sum of money, he embarked on his homeward journey but never reached home. Instead he was found dead in his boat the following morning. Authorities presumed he died of natural causes since there was no sign of violence, but his family believed differently because no money was found on his person or in the boat, although he was known to have left Port Townsend with a sizeable sum.

## Deer Lagoon

In 1858 a young man of 28 years, Edward Oliver from Virginia, heard rumors that Whidbey Island was a veritable paradise with land free for the taking. He took passage on the ship *Glencoe* landing on Whidbey Island at the head of Useless Bay near what is now Bayview.

After exploring South Whidbey, Oliver started a logging operation on Deer Lagoon.

Deer Lagoon was made up of two small bays, one to the north and one to the northwest on Sunlight Beach. Dikes today have dried the area that once was Deer Lagoon but before they were built, water flooded the entire expanse twice a day to the present site of the Whidbey Telephone building at Bayview.

Oliver established a home on a large tract on the west side of Deer Lagoon approximately where the Useless Bay Golf and Country Club is now. He married Melvina Sooy, whose mother was Indian and whose father was white and they became the parents of four children, Hester, Mary, Phillip and Edward, Jr. Melvina died in 1886.

On April 3, 1887 Oliver took as his wife Jane Johnson (Gah-toh-litsa), widow of the ill-fated William T. Johnson. Edward and Jane became the parents of six children, Willis, Martin, Jessie, Alfred, Walter and Edith. Jane Oliver, who lived until 1945, became known as "Grandma Oliver" to many South Whidbey folks and remained a colorful character even in her old age.

There were many stories of sailors deserting ship to live in the new land of the Northwest. Such a man was Thomas Johns, who along with eight other crew members deserted their English ship one night, rowed from Esquimaux, B.C. near Victoria to Dungeness near Port Townsend.

The nine men decided to separate so they wouldn't be captured. Johns went to Port Ludlow where he met



Elmer Jewett, Ray Bailey and Ed Ellis, sons of the first pioneers of Cultus Bay. Courtesy of the South Whidbey Historical Society.

ly out of his teens, became the owner of one of the most beautiful tracts of low bank waterfront and backlands on South Whidbey. Porter brought a cabin from Port Townsend to Mutiny Bay on a scow and was ready to settle his new land.

He took a wife, believed to have been a young woman whose name was Tidwell. Descendants say there were at least two children, Asa and Florence, born of this union. Porter prospered and continued to acquire more land until his holdings were about 1,000 acres stretching from Mutiny Bay to Holmes Harbor.

At some time during this period his wife died and on May 15, 1889 he married Louisa Johnson, daughter of the ill-fated William Johnson and Gah-toh-litsa. They became the parents of eight children, Leo, Blanche, Florence, Lena, Omer, Joe, William and Delight.

Many of their descendants still live on South Whidbey and are leaders in the community.

## "Brown's Point"

In 1859, the same year that Thomas Johns unceremoniously left the British navy to become a solid citizen on the western shore of South Whidbey, a 19 year old Portuguese seaman, Joseph Brown, took similar impromptu leave of his ship on South Whidbey's eastern shore.

He found his way to the Indian village located on what is now known as Sandy Point and integrat-

bey timber to supply a Port Ludlow mill in which they owned a part interest and also to fill orders for lumber in San Francisco where their firm was based.

The firm consisted of Zachariah Amos, Arthur Phinney and William Hooke. Arthur Phinney decided to launch into the real estate business independently of the firm and sold some property to several individuals.

In 1877 Phinney died leaving a will that turned his property over to his brother, John G. Phinney of Port Ludlow.

John moved into his South Whidbey property and started the beginnings of a village, including a post office. He also started dealing in real estate and one of his more notable sales was that of 120 acres to Jacob Anthes in 1881 for \$100. This later became a part of the town of Langley.

Early in 1895 Phinney disappeared mysteriously leaving his business unattended and no trace of what had happened. His property was unclaimed for several years and the taxes remained unpaid until Feb. 15, 1906 when the waterfront tract of 44 acres was sold by the sheriff to A.J. McMillan for delinquent taxes in the amount of \$38.64 plus charges of \$24.75.

The official record of John Phinney ends here but a story immersed in 1935 relating to the circumstances of the 44 year old mystery which many people believe. The story was told by B.N. Thorsheim of Clinton. He told of a visitor from Oregon, Peter Henderson who knew there had been trouble between Phinney and one of his hired men; a fight ensued during which Phinney was killed. The murderer then fled to Oregon and was personally known to Henderson.

The town which Phinney had started, between Clinton and Gledale gradually disappeared as its functions were taken over by the rapidly developing village of Clinton.

## Bush Point

A sea captain, Christian Madsen, whose various ships including *Thatcher*, *H.C. Page* and *Letitia*, were at one time or another during the two decades from 1865 to 1885 used by almost all the settlers on the shores of Mutiny Bay and Use-

less Bay. Included in his ships' logs is a notation that he loaded hay from the Nathaniel Porter farm as early as 1869 and as late as 1886 he attended the funeral of William T. Johnson.

Madsen was born in Denmark in January, 1832. At an early age he became a seaman and soon acquired his own ship. In 1857 he sailed his ship across the ocean, around The Horn and up the west coast of the United States to San Francisco.

At that time San Francisco was involved in a building boom and lumber was needed not only for buildings but also for dock pilings.

The virgin stands of timber on the Olympic Peninsula and South Whidbey provided an ideal source. Madsen soon established a thriving shipping business transporting lumber from Washington Territory to California.

He maintained his southern headquarters in San Francisco and his northern base of operations at Port Ludlow in Lyons Hotel whose owner, Mike Lyons, also had timber land and a mill in the Maxwellton area of South Whidbey.

Until 1870 Madsen was strictly a seaman but that year he began leading a double life. In public he was a ship's captain and apparently a bachelor but his private life, which he attempted to keep secret for several years, involved a wife, three stepchildren and a small farming project at South Whidbey's Bush Point, then known as Willow Point. His wife was Emily Low, a Calallam Indian woman whose husband, a white man, had died and left her with three children, Tommy, Emily and Minnie.

Madsen established his new family at Willow Point in one of the longhouses in the Indian village there. He continued to live in Port Ludlow when not at sea or in San Francisco, but he made periodic visits to Willow Point, coming in a small sailing scow which he could moor on the beach while his large freighter was conspicuously berthed at Port Ludlow or Port Townsend. When he was on the island Madsen used the name, "Jim Brown," which later evolved into "Jim Madsen."

He gained his land at Willow Point through a poker game at Port Townsend. In 1881 he made sure of the title to his property by filing a pre-emption claim which was recorded in the county courthouse.

Madsen built a large warehouse on his property and a cottage for Emily and her children. He retired



A portrait of Jacob Anthes founder of Langley. (Photo courtesy of the South Whidbey Historical Society)

## Holmes Harbor

Intrigued by the stories of the balmy climate lush vegetation of the Pacific Northwest and after several years of struggling with the severe Minnesota winters, Emil Pearson, an immigrant from Sweden decided to come west.

He and his wife and three children arrived on South Whidbey in 1883 and took out homestead rights on 160 acres on the west slope of the hill overlooking Holmes Harbor on the west and Lone Lake on the east.

Emil and his sons, Andrew and Charles, built what is believed to be

the first house in the Holmes Harbor-Lone Lake area. It was a large house with four bedrooms, a family room, a kitchen and a parlor made entirely of logs dovetailed together without nails. The foundation of the old house is still in existence on the highest point of the hill above Lone Lake, as are the graves of Emil Pearson and his wife.

Emil's son Charles, married Amanda (Annie) Little, a widow with four children, Otis, Ivan, Coral and Bernice. Charles and Amanda later became the parents of a daughter, Iola. Until the children were grown, Charles and his family lived in the original house built by his father.

## Statehood day island tour reveals issues of the day

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

## Brown's Point visit

Our courier could see his point. He went back to his boat and mulled over in his mind the activities he had encountered on this visit to South Whidbey, two weddings, a birthing, a conflagration and now a probable murder. He was tempted to give up the whole thing and head back for Olympia.

There was a smattering of names on his list of people who lived inland but he wasn't sure just how to find them and, more importantly, he had lost his enthusiasm for the task.

However, there was one more on-shore settlement on his list, Brown's Point and it was just a short distance north of Clinton so he once more put to sea, arriving shortly at the settlement. It wasn't as developed as Clinton but was quite impressive. There was a dock with a makeshift sort of lighthouse and a big house on a knoll above the beach. Some children were playing near the dock and he inquired where he might find the owner of the place, Joseph Brown. A child pointed to the house.

"Papa's up at the house with Jake Anthes and some men from Seattle. Are you one of them?"

"No, our traveler replied, "but I have some big news for them." He headed for the house and was met at the door by Joseph Brown. When he stated his business Brown let out a whoop and called to a group of men seated around a table in what appeared to be a dining room. "Har-

low, my suggestion is a partnership with him at Deer Lagoon on Whidbey Island.

Thomas soon fell in love with the island. Oliver and Johns built skid-roads and used oxen to haul the logs down to the lagoon. By sailing in and out with the tide they were able to get mail and groceries in Port Townsend or Port Ludlow.

After Queen Victoria of England offered a pardon to all the young men who had deserted ships to settle the new country, Johns filed his intention to buy land on the eastern side of Deer Lagoon in February of 1872.

He brought a bride, Mary Jane Coffelt of Port Townsend to his new home on the lagoon following his marriage in 1874. Johns and his wife, Mary Jane, had three children including a daughter, Florence who was born in February, 1890 and married Fred Tiemeyer, the son of another early settler.

Another pioneer to this area was Nathaniel Porter who came in 1859. Porter was born in Boston in 1840. At the tender of age of 10 he left home and went to sea. For several years he roamed the world as a seaman visiting ports in exotic places such as India, the West Indies and Europe.

He also served as a cavalryman and while in the army he was involved in a street brawl in San Francisco where he was shot in the leg and spent a year in that city recovering.

Considerably subdued by the accident, he started north seeking a place to settle down. He first found a tract of virgin timberland on the outskirts of Port Ludlow but found his claim was greatly desired by the Puget Sound Pulp and Timber Company.

The timber company offered young Porter a trade of property at Mutiny Bay, which had been logged off, for his claim with a sizeable amount of money, to sweeten their offer.

Thus this young ex-seaman, bar-



The Anthes family cabin in Langley.

ed himself into the life of the village, winning the trust and friendship of the Indians.

In 1865 Brown married a 14 year old Indian girl, Mary, and started building an impressive home on the bluff above the shore and also an impressive family of 14 children.

Shortly after his arrival, Brown established a lighthouse of sorts on the beach and the village became known in shipping circles as "Brown's Point," a name which it carried until recent times when it was re-christened Sandy Point. The "lighthouse" consisted only of a frame shelter housing and kerosene lantern which was lighted each evening at dusk.

As time passed and other white settlers arrived in the area, the Browns became leaders in that early day community and, for a time, school was held at their home. Brown also had dreams of establishing a town and divided his land into tracts, streets and alleys for public use.

Joseph Brown died in 1921 and several of his descendants still reside on South Whidbey.

## The Eastern Coast

Another mystery surrounds the story of John Phinney who became a large land owner on the eastern coast and disappeared never to be seen again.

In 1864 the firm of Amos, Phinney and Company of California started acquiring large tracts of land along the shores of Saratoga Passage.

In the beginning the firm was interested primarily in South Whid-

devoted his energies to establishing a flourishing farm.

Apparently one of his first acts after he established his home was to sever his connections with the Indian longhouse. He started taking down the potlatch house at Bush Point and burned it on Dec. 7, 1886, according to the log of his schooner, H.C. Page.

fellows, it's finally happened. At long last Washington has gained statehood. Hooray!"

A handsome man in his middle twenties stepped forward, shook our courier's hand and exclaimed, "This is wonderful news. We are just now formulating plans for a platted town just up the beach a ways on a beautiful little cove. We are going to call our new town Langley, after the Judge over here." He pointed to an important looking man seated at the table. "This means that our new town will actually belong to a state with full citizenship rights. Let's celebrate!"

And celebrate they did, with exclamation points instead of periods. That's about the way things were on South Whidbey at the time of statehood, except of course, we can't prove that a courier came from Olympia bringing the good news of Washington statehood.

Find him he did. He also found another wedding in progress. Porter, a fiftyish widower with several children, was smack dab in the middle of his second wedding to no less a lady than the daughter of the Olivers. Porter was the owner of about 1,000 acres of fertile land between Mutiny Bay and Holmes Harbor and, normally, would have been much interested in Washington's accomplishment of statehood but the really big event of acquiring a new bride overshadowed it.

Our courier had one more stop on the west side of South Whidbey. His list showed that there was quite a development at Willow Point (now Bush Point) with the Carlton family and Chris Madsen residing there as well as an Indian long house being located on the beach. Our courier had high hopes that his news of Washington statehood would be received here with enthusiasm.

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## Life on Whidbey was abundant for Indians before white settlers

By LINDA PORTER

Imagine a stroll along one of South Whidbey's beaches, perhaps after a filling holiday meal, or an argument with a loved one. Maybe a walk on the shore just seems to be a good way of gaining new perspective on life, or of celebrating the season — a summer of sunshine and carefree thoughts.

Whatever the reason, the beaches of Whidbey are but one example of the Island's many charms and the reason so many nomads have come to call this island their home. Living on Whidbey means not having to imagine a beach walk at all; residents can act upon impulses to step out of modern life for a moment into a sanctuary of tranquility, unmarred by conveniences, or manmade demands on time, energy or resources.

In that first step on the rain-packed sand, or that primary stumble on barnacled rocks, one transcends the years of time and enters into another world — a world where moccasins, not Reeboks, once left imprinted proof that life existed long before one's own world could ever remember.

Whidbey Island was summer home to many different groups of what are now referred to as Native Americans, but which have been historically called Indians. North of Greenbank, the Skagit Indians roamed; and south of Greenbank, the island was territory of the Snohomish tribe.

Yet in the spirit of brotherhood, many peoples of distinctive characteristics worked in harmony in the labor of survival — Samish, Swinomish, Snoqualmie, Stilligumish, Suquamish, and others which partook of the abundance of food resources in the summer on Whidbey Island.

### The Snohomish people

This article is about South Whidbey, and therefore, is about those people which inhabited beaches, forests, bluffs, and streams south of Greenbank. It is about the Snohomish people in days when skin color and culture were pure, where the word "white" referred only to snow-topped mountains or the caps of waves which brushed one's canoe while enroute between the winter lands and Whidbey.

The Snohomish tribal territory covered South Whidbey from the point of the marshes of Greenbank, where canoes were portaged across the land, through a large portion of Camano Island, past Hat (or Gedney) Island, to the Cascade Mountains and from Tulalip to what is now called Richmond Beach near Edmonds.

Winters were spent primarily along the east coast of Puget Sound, near Everett and Snohomish, and along rivers where some food sources could still be accessed. The Snohomish people used short winter days to prepare for times of food harvesting. They repaired nets, and crafted baskets, clothing and costumes. A canoe was always in the process of being built. Knives were fashioned out of stone, or sharpened for use in food preparation. And weapons were prepared for ready use.

Toward the end of Spring, small groups of the stronger travelers began the journey to Whidbey Island, where seasonal foods could be gathered and stored for the next winter. By the end of June, groups of Indians dotted the beaches of the island at Sandy Point, Columbia Beach, Skagit Head, Cultus Bay, Double Bluff, Mutiny Bay, Bush Point, Lagoon Point, Holmes Harbor, and on around the beaches past Fox's Spit toward Langley.

Tendrils of smoke were unofficial reminders that families were not alone. On distant shores of other islands still more smoke columns gently spiraled to the heavens as indicators of other seasonal gatherings.

### Spring's first arrivals

One is eager to imagine those first arrivals on the island. After a wave-lashed ride in a heavily-laden canoe, the Indian must have welcomed the site of Sandy (Brown's) Point. For here the children could leap across the last waves between the canoe and the shore, then roll around for a few moments in the warm sand before they were called to help set up camp.

Camp meant building mat houses — shelters made of overlapped tightly-woven mats, large enough for one family or for several. A fire pit was carved out of a wind-protected site, and the gathering baskets were made ready for the next day's toils. A quick meal of meat or fish, followed by stewed berries, was prepared. The weary travelers added slumber sounds to the whisper of calm breezes, to hooting owl sentinels, and to the everpresent water tick-tock of waves as they licked the shore.

Morning came with an early sunrise — the beginning of one of many days spent hunting for deer and small game, or the taking of plump juicy berries offered by overlaid bushes, or digging for clams, oysters, mussels and cockles. Many varieties of fish were beckoned from the sea, then dried with the other harvests to take back to the winterlands. Occasionally, a seal was spotted and slaughtered as well.

The berry season began to flourish in mid-July on the islands so the people began to sun-dry under mats all types of succulent delicacies — blackberries, blackcaps, salalberries, blueberries, huckleberries and thimbleberry sprouts. Blueberry cakes were made by squashing dried blueberries, mixed with water, into 8 x 5 x 1.5 inch blocks, then dried again. These could be eaten as they were, or stewed later.



This pre-statehood scene of the white man arriving on Whidbey Island is depicted in a mural in the lobby of the Island County Courthouse in Coupeville. (Mural by Ren Briggs)

At the end of those long, hot days, dusk crawled in as tired as the harvesters — full of satisfaction from a good day's work and seeping with excitement for the evening's activities. Tonight, the group (of anywhere from one to several families per temporary village) might sate their ravenous appetites, then squat or lounge around fueled embers while coaxing legends from the memories of the older ones present.

The elder children might snicker when one of those legends is told a bit inaccurately to wide-eyed little ones. They know their grandparents are still in the winter longhouses a water-stretch away, unable to criticize the storytellers. These elder children know, too, their grandparents will set them all straight during the long night hours of winters to come.

Sooner or later a female family member comes straggling in toward the campfire, after having spent an unusually long period of time trying to remove the "sunscreens" of their era — deer grease mixed with red paint, which was traded from the Snoqualmie tribe. While a cool wind blows round her thick, dark hair, she joins the others at the warm, sparking fire. Here, she forgets hopes and dreams, cleanses burdens of previous hours, and moulds values by which her children should live.

In the morning her six-year-old son loses one of his teeth for the first time. Mother tells him to run to the woods with it and "call for dog salmon teeth while throwing your tooth in the river" or stream. When he has gone, mother smiles because she knows this game will keep her child from worrying about lost teeth. The ruse seems to work; son comes back with a grin, having apparently forgotten his troubles.

### The essence of existence

Troubles, however, are on the mind of Father. The very existence of his people depends directly on the abundance of the harvest. He remembers a legend about the Quileute Indians on the Olympic Peninsula: Failure of the fish to run for one or two years resulted in widespread starvation and death. While this season looks good, he knows he must use every available hour to secure food for his people. He knows his thoughts are shared by those he left behind — those 2,500 to 3,000 other Snohomish people who are hunting, gathering berries and roots, and trading with other tribes in places other than on Whidbey Island.

Before he leaves on the hunt he decides to slip into the forest's protective skirts for a few moments of solitude. Here, he can reflect on his life, and gain spiritual rejuvenation. Here, he can rejoice in his life's splendors — his good wife and his children.

This man remembers his marriage to his wife. His family presented her family with gifts, and they reciprocated. That, simply, was the marriage. Of course, had he been of a higher social class, he might have had a large celebration at a potlatch. To divorce, the gifts would merely be returned, but the stigma of being the person "at fault" would mean probable cause by others to shun him as a potential marriage partner in the future. He is happy with this marriage.

He laughs with delight like a child when he thinks of the birth of his children. He attended to his wife for 12 days after each birth, as was the

custom. He lived with his wife in a special birth lodge, and was not permitted to go near other people. While living there with his wife, he had to bathe morning and evening and keep exceptionally clean. He took the bringing of his children into the world very seriously; they were a gift from nature itself.

In Indian country, every part of the earth is sacred. Every rock, leaf, twig, or person had a special meaning. To move an object, one had to first ask its permission, because moving the object changed the earth's surroundings. To kill an animal, the animal had to be told it would be used for a good purpose. Every part of that animal would be useful; none would be wasted. Such was the unity of life in the Indian yesteryear. Survival was dependent upon that unity.

While sometimes war was utilized, and the taking of slaves from other tribes was practiced, the people primarily cooperated with other peoples, sharing in celebrations called potlatches, joining together for protection in war, or living in harmony with nature so the earth would not be spoiled. This, along with legends, provided the tribal member with the comfort that came from knowing an important legacy would be carried on.

### Pride in the Indian legacy

It is with pride in that legacy that some Snohomish descendants live today — some even on Whidbey Island. Some of the same principles have been carried on; some of the same values passed along to children.

The Snohomish Indians, as with other Indian groups of that time so long ago, could not have known what the future held. When Father was concerned about the salmon not running and how it could affect the livelihood and the very existence of the tribe, he did not know that a treaty would be signed near the site where one of South Whidbey's ferries land at Mukilteo.

He did not know his "back yard" would not belong to his people any longer, but that they would have to live with other similar yet distinctively different groups on a reserved piece of land much smaller than those of their origins.

He never heard of the Boldt Decision, or of how important it would be for his tribe to become federally recognized so they could officially call themselves "Indian," regardless of who their ancestors were. He did not know that in a century or two, some people would be fighting over differences and resources instead of working together to save them.

When this proud Indian made preparations in August to canoe back to the winterland for harvests of autumn salmon, elk, deer, bear, and mountain goat, he left footprints in the sand which would be washed away. Yet his legacy would live on...

Imagine taking a walk on the beach. Pristine waters sparkle with diamonds of sunlight. In the distance are mountains as big as the message of people of all colors who have traveled to Whidbey through the countless generations: Let the spirit of all the people who have walked these shores, woods, or towns work in harmony toward good stewardship of the land. When Reeboks are as old as moccasins in memory, may this blessed island still be precious and preserved, and may its people be diligent and united.

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Langley has historically been popular for its seaside charm. And as we join in celebrating Washington state's Centennial, we look forward to our own Centennial, friendlier, livelier and better than ever. Langley prides itself on good, old-fashioned personal service, whether in a professional office, a shop, a restaurant or a bed and breakfast inn. Let us meet all of your professional and personal service needs, or help you find unique gift and essential items in our delightful shops. We boast a variety of restaurants for a special meal out, and lodging that ranges from the casual to the elegant, for a stay-at-home getaway for yourself or to accommodate your out of town visitors. Langley. Seaside charm and good, old-fashioned personal service since 1891.

ABEL'S  
Garden Center

LANDSCAPE DESIGN,  
GIFTS & GARDEN SUPPLIES  
Established 1984  
110 E. Sixth Street  
Langley, WA 98260  
221-3282



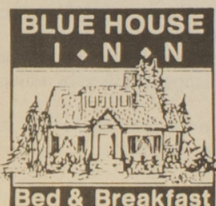
ANNIE STEFFEN'S  
wearables & other fine things

Established 1986  
101 1st St., Langley  
321-6535

T H E  
BLUE  
HEART

Of Whidbey Island  
Established 1988  
220 2nd St., Suite 105  
Langley • 221-3645

In Langley since 1988



Bed & Breakfast  
513 Anthes, Langley, WA 98260  
(206)221-8392

BODYCOVER

Established 1977

109 First St., Langley  
321-5878

CHILDERS/PROCTOR  
GALLERY

Established 1983  
302 1st Street, Langley  
221-2978

The Gallery Suite  
304 FIRST ST. BOX 456 LANGLEY, WA  
Established 1988  
221-2978

Family  
Chiropractic  
Center

of South Whidbey Island

Established 1986  
211 Second Street  
Langley, WA  
321-5141

FRANK PLOOF, DDS

Established 1973

221 Anthes Ave.  
Langley  
321-5616

THE  
GIRAFFE  
PROJECT

Stick Your Neck Out

In Langley since 1985  
120 2nd Street, P.O. Box 759  
Langley, WA 98260  
800-344-TALL/206-221-7989

GOODFELLOW

and  
Poor Jean's



Established  
1984  
211 1st Street  
Langley • 321-1838

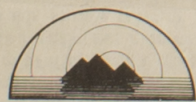
HARLEQUIN  
GEMSTONES • FINE JEWELRY

Established 1988

220 Second Street  
Suite 106  
Langley • 221-3955

HEDGCOCK-  
VISSER  
FUNERAL  
HOME

Established 1937  
P.O. Box 327, Langley  
321-6600



ISLAND  
HOME NURSING

Serving Whidbey Island  
since 1985  
P.O. Box 863, Langley  
221-7232/678-4090



Established 1972

P.O. Box 245  
Langley, WA 98260

island  
TRAVEL

P.O. Box 795  
222 Anthes # 204  
Langley, WA 98260  
321-6996  
Established 1987

JB's  
Ice Creamery  
AND  
ESPRESSO

Est. 1983  
in Langley  
221-3888  
First St. • Langley

John M. Watson  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

Established 1972

111 Anthes, Langley  
321-6977

Jones'

OF LANGLEY

Established 1956  
314 1st Street, Langley  
321-4676

Langley Hi-Fi  
and  
Car  
Stereo

Established 1984

5 Years of Service to  
South Whidbey  
321-5876



"Greater Lower  
Downtown Langley"  
321-1771  
Serving Boaters since 1952

Linda's  
JEWELRY

Established 1982

105 1st St., Langley  
321-6111

Linda's Flowers  
& Gifts

Established  
1987  
223 2nd Street  
Langley 321-6717

LitLstuff



Established 1986

220 First Street  
Langley  
321-4859

Madhatters  
Old Books



Established  
on Whidbey  
Island since  
1984

108 First St., Langley  
221-2356

PORTER WHIDBEY  
INSURANCE INC.

Established 1962

222 Anthes  
P.O. Box 329  
Langley  
321-1500

Dr. Rick Prael

Established  
1974

307 1st St.  
Langley  
321-5060



RE/MAX  
tara properties, inc.

Formerly  
South Island  
Realty  
Established  
1971

211 2nd Street, Langley  
321-1700



The  
RECORD

Established 1923

2nd & Anthes • Langley  
321-5300

RENAISSANCE  
SALON

Established 1977

122 2nd Street, Langley  
321-1596

Robert L. Levine  
CPA

Established 1989

222 Anthes  
Porter Building, No. 106  
Langley  
221-3040

SOLEIL  
& Est. 1988  
TRANSPORTER  
EXPRESS

Established 1984

308 First St., Langley  
221-2067

South  
Whidbey  
Children's  
Center

Established  
1977

120 6th Street, Langley  
321-4499

SOUTH  
WHIDBEY  
PHYSICAL  
THERAPY

Linda Smith, P.T.  
Debora Valis, P.T.

Established 1982  
114 2nd Street, Langley  
221-3494

Star  
Bistro

Established 1988

221-2627  
201 1/2 1st St., Langley

Market  
THE  
STAR  
STORE

Established  
1929

321-5222  
First Street  
Langley

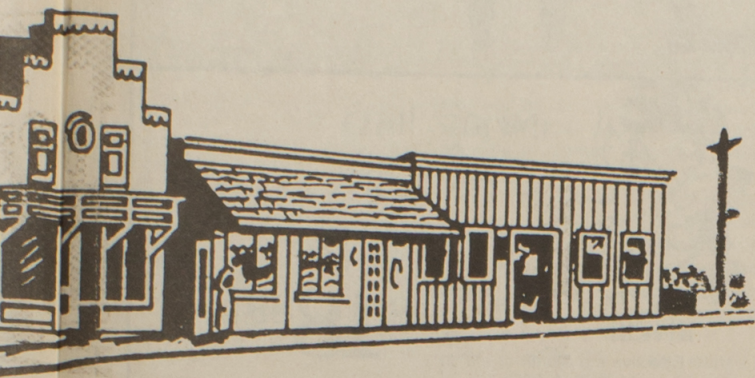
Merchantile  
THE  
STAR  
STORE

Established  
1929

321-5223  
First Street  
Langley



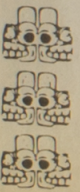
hioned Friendliness  
sonal Service.  
of the Past in Langley.



# LANGLEY



## Choochokam



Established  
1975  
Sat. & Sun.  
July 1 & 2, 1989  
P.O. Box 580  
Langley  
221-7494



Established 1937  
First Street, Langley  
321-5525

## THE COFFEE GOURMET

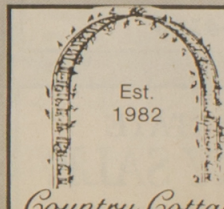


Established  
1988

220 2nd Street, Langley  
321-4858

## The COTTAGE

Established 1975  
210 1st Street  
Langley, WA 98260  
321-4747



P.O. Box 459, 215 6th St., Langley  
221-8709



Established 1985  
P.O. Box 613  
203 Wharf Street  
Langley  
221-3999

## HELLEBORE GLASS STUDIO

Established 1974

308 First Street, Langley  
221-2067



## THE HERON

Established 1988  
220 First St., Langley  
221-3839

## Iris Cartier, M.A.

Established 1988

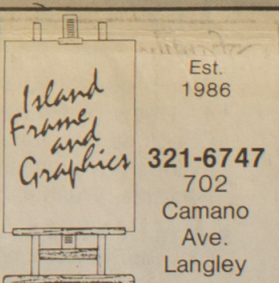
LANGLEY  
221-2895



Established 1980  
P.O. Box 173  
Langley, WA 98260

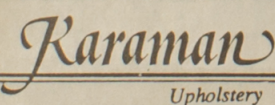


Incorporated in 1922  
P.O. Box 172, Langley  
321-4677  
August 17-20, 1989



Est.  
1986

321-6747  
702  
Camano  
Ave.  
Langley



Established 1973

626 Second Street  
Langley  
321-1377



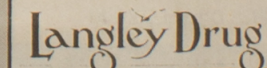
Established on Whidbey  
Island since 1983  
214 First Street, Langley  
321-6283



Established 1988  
220 2nd St., Suite 102  
Langley • 221-8408



Established 1980  
101 Anthes, Langley  
321-4720



Established 1940s

105 1st Street, Langley  
321-4359



Established 1978

107 1st St., Langley  
321-1070

## MASTER LUBE of Langley, Inc.

Oil Change, Lubrication  
Repair Center

Established 1985

Cascade Ave. & 2nd St.  
Langley  
321-4282

## MIKE'S PLACE RESTAURANT

Established 1985  
215 First Street, Langley  
321-6575



Established 1972  
First Street, Langley  
321-6962



Established 1985

111 Anthes • Langley  
321-4949



Established 1975

8 a.m.-8 p.m. 7 Days a Week  
630 2nd Street  
Langley



Established 1987  
P.O. Box 882  
Langley, WA 98260  
321-5855

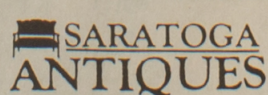
## Robert Rorex, D.C.

Established 1986

Langley Professional  
Center  
307 First Street  
Langley  
321-5060

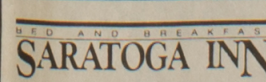


Established 1970  
138 2nd St., Langley  
321-1366



Serving Langley for  
16 years

212 First Street  
Langley, WA  
321-4363

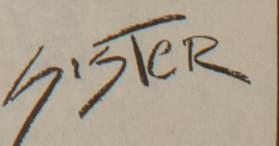


Since 1982

221-7526  
4860 S. Coles Rd., Langley



Established 1984  
108 1st Street, Langley  
221-7434

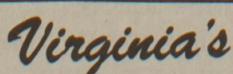


Established 1985

321-5735  
FIRST STREET, LANGLEY



Established in Langley 1989  
117 Anthes Court, Langley  
221-2484



THE FAMOUS SHOPPE  
OF FINE THINGS

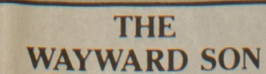
Established 1972

206 First Street  
Langley  
221-7797



Established 1988

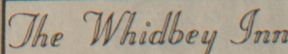
221-3747  
221-7797  
220 1st St., Langley



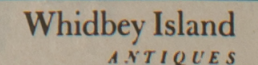
Estate  
Jewelry

Established  
1982

202 First St., Langley  
221-3911



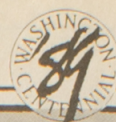
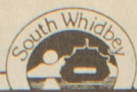
Established 1981  
106 First St., P.O. Box 156  
Langley • 221-7115



Serving  
Whidbey  
Island  
since 1979

Anthes Ave., Langley  
221-2393

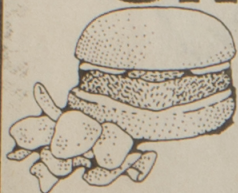




# BAYVIEW

## Bayview Center

### UNOCAL 76



Double Meat & Cheese  
**HAMBURGER**

**ONLY 89¢** Effective March 14-20

Located off Hwy. 525 in front of Sebo's Coast to Coast • 321-6059

**501 LEVI'S**  
**ONLY \$18<sup>89</sup>**  
Hurry, March 14-21 only!  
**Bill's Feed & Tack**  
Bayview Store • 321-6789

Swing Into  
SPRING with a  
**TINT**  
**\$18<sup>89</sup>**  
Effective the Month of March  
5824 South Kramer Road • 321-6336  
Open 9 a.m. Tuesday-Saturday • Call for appointment.

## Neil's Clover Patch Cafe

Weekly Breakfast  
**SPECIALS**

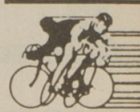
**\$1<sup>89</sup>** Thru month of March with coupon

**89¢ OFF** Lunch or Dinner

Thru month of March with coupon  
(\*Complete meals only)

Bayview Center • 321-4120

**Time to Re-tire?**  
Pay only 89% of regular price on  
Tires • Tubes • Patch Kits • and Tire Levers  
March 14-31



the  
pedaler

Tuesday-Friday 10-5:30, Saturday 10-5  
5603-1/2 So. Bayview Rd., Langley • 321-5040

COUPON

Two Small Combination  
**DINNERS**  
**\$8<sup>50</sup>** 4-9 p.m.  
Served with beans & rice

LUNCH SPECIAL 11-3 p.m.  
**SAVE \$1<sup>89</sup>** Purchase any two and save \$1.89  
• Tostados  
• Taco Salads  
• Burritos  
• Enchiladas  
Offers valid March 14-April 14 with coupon only.

**EL CORRAL**  
5826 South Kramer Road 221-7799

## WASHINGTON STATE 100th BIRTHDAY SALE

### Oil, Lube & Filter

**\$18<sup>89</sup>** 4 QTS. to **\$19<sup>89</sup>** 5 QTS.  
CARS & LIGHT TRUCKS (\$29 value)

- 4 or 5 quarts 10-30 or 30 motor oil
- 1 — new oil filter and lube
- Check all fluid levels — Battery, Master cylinder, Transmission, Differential, Radiator, Washer (Diesel's slightly higher)

**\$4<sup>89</sup>** Wheel Balance with purchase ea. of any 2 or more new tires. (\$6.50 value)

**89¢ Valve Stem** with tire purchase (\$2 value)  
OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/89

GOODYEAR, TIEMPO & ARRIVA TIRES ON SALE NOW!



WHIDBEY  
**TIRE & AUTO CENTER**  
Bayview • 321-4553



## Nature's Blend

SALE

ONE WEEK ONLY! March 14-20

### • VITAMIN C

500 MG, 100 TABLETS ..... **89¢**

• **CALCIUM MAGNESIUM**, 100 TABLETS ..... **\$1<sup>89</sup>**

• **MULTIPLE VITAMIN** WITH MINERALS, 100 TABLETS ..... **\$2<sup>89</sup>**



**Vaughan's Pharmacy**

Open 9-6 Mon.-Sat. • Bayview Center • 321-5277

## STERBA'S Meats & Seafoods

at Bayview



See our display  
ad in the  
March 14  
issue of The  
Record.

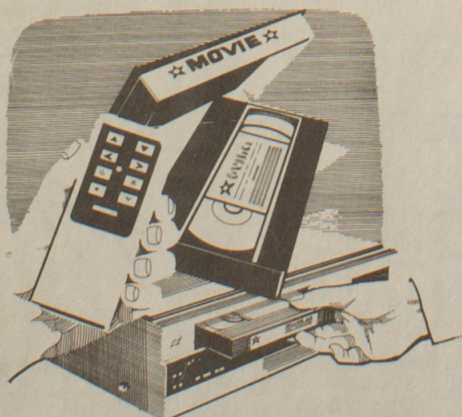
**BBQ SPECIAL**  
**Beef Rib 89¢ lb.**  
**Bones** THRU MARCH 31.

5833 South Kramer Road 321-5590

## Celebrating Washington's Centennial

# Casey's

BAYVIEW CENTER



**ALL VIDEOS**

**89¢** Except new releases

Offer effective March 15-21

## GREG'S SALES & RENT-A-TOOL



**RENT  
- A -**

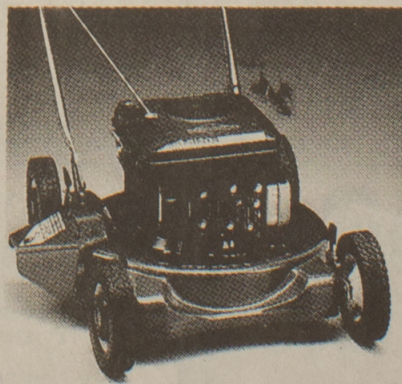
**ROTOTILLER**

**AT 89%  
OFF REGULAR PRICE**

March 14-April 14

5844 S. Kramer Rd.  
**321-4440**

## Spring SPECIAL



**SAVE \$50**  
**20" Deluxe  
3.5 HP  
MOWER**  
Sale **\$129<sup>99</sup>**

Side discharge push mower.  
Briggs & Stratton engine. 8"x2" deluxe  
wheels with anti-friction bearings. 9 position  
height adjustment. Fully baffled.  
In carton. (\$10 assembly charge).

**Coast to Coast**

America's Locally-Owned, Nationally-Known TOTAL HARDWARE Store.

Bayview Center • 321-6080

Mon.-Sat. 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.  
Sunday 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.



## Clinton founders' gold seen in tall island trees

### Hinman brothers fuel shipping fleet

By CASEY O'KEEFE

The California gold rush fever was over by the late 1870s when Edward and Henry Hinman arrived in the Pacific Northwest from their hometown of Clinton, Michigan.

The Hinman brothers foresaw their own special "gold" in the steep hills crowned with giant conifers on South Whidbey. The resources were just right to log for cord wood to service the many steamers which traveled Puget Sound.

They located John Phinney who had started a real estate business and opened a post office on Whidbey in 1878. Before long, the Hinman brothers had taken over the post office and established a dock and general store on the beach. Their cord wood business thrived. In honor of their hometown, they named the village Clinton.

Clinton and South Whidbey's natural resources attracted more and more settlers over the years. Some saw "gold" in the forests and others saw wealth in the soil. The Jacob Simmons family settled on a farm a couple of miles from Clinton up Deer Lake Road in 1889. Today, there are as many Simmons as the entire census counted as Clinton residents in 1900.

As a member of the new community, Simmons was a part of the advisory board that formed the Clinton Labor Exchange store in 1903 when it was apparent that the little Clinton store the Hinmans had built was no longer adequate to serve the growing village. He was again on the board when members voted to incorporate the Clinton Union Cooperative Store. Simmons can still be found in businesses around Clinton today, the most prominent being the Simmons Garage.

#### Clinton's first church

During the building of Clinton as a community, Jacob and his wife, Halverina, were also active in establishing a church for the settlers. Before the incorporation of Saint Peter's Lutheran, church services, prayer meetings, and Ladies' Aid were often held at the home of the Simmons. Even after the church was established, visiting ministers were guaranteed a room at the Simmons' home.

Jacob Simmons came to Whidbey along with his brother-in-law, Ole Peterson. The promise of excitement, adventure and tall timber enticed them to travel ahead of their families. They sent word home that "Opportunity awaits if you don't mind roughing it." Their wives and children soon followed and by 1890, their Orvick and Skorpion family members had also followed from their respective homes in Iowa.

Tom Orr was fresh back from the Alaskan "gold rush" when he left his relatives in Iowa for the shores of South Whidbey Island. He knew he was Whidbey bound because he had friends, the Chris Berghs, who lived near Clinton. He bought a farm, married in 1901, and became one of the founders of St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

Orr started a milk delivery route on the island, but later he sold the milk to Darigold dairy. He would load milk and cream in his wagon and drive to the dock. Before he returned, he would buy groceries at the Clinton Union Store, where he was a member of the advisory board that formed the Clinton Labor Exchange store.

The Orrs had a telephone installed in 1916 and they owned one of the few automobiles on the island. Although when most of Clinton traveled to Maxwelton for a picnic to hear Billy Sunday, Bessie Orr remembers that fishing boats were used as passenger boats to sail around South Whidbey.

#### Early telephone days

Clark Salisbury can remember a telephone in his home, too. In fact, he thinks the original hole for wiring could be found in the home his uncle built and he and his wife now live in on Brighton Beach. "It was one of those crank kind," he said about the telephone.

His grandfather, Jonathon Salisbury came to Clinton to run the Clinton Hotel in 1900 when he bought it from H.B. Campbell. During the summers of 1909 through 1911, Salisbury's two sons, Frank and Dallas, would use a launch and barge to transport their hotel guests from Clinton to Maxwelton. Frank married Margaret Clark and their first home was in Maxwelton.

In 1913, Clark was born and when he was three years old, his family moved to Clinton on Brighton Beach. Their home was just north of the Presbyterian Church that is now a private home along the drive.

His father moved his shingle mill down to the beach and installed a stationary cut-off saw which could cut only six-foot bolts. He built the new sawmill near the



Old Clinton when it was located on the beach originally called Brighton Beach about 1900. Photo includes early pioneers Alec McDonald, left, Gust Erikson, Ed Hinman, Henry Hinman, two unknown persons, Mr. Frick and Jake Simmons. The old Clinton Union Store and Post Office is the building on the left, the Salisbury house, Hastings Store and across the road is the Salisbury Shingle Mill. (Photo courtesy of the South Whidbey Historical Society.)

Clinton Union Store. The cement and pile foundation where the mill's engine was tied down can still be seen on the beach near the remains of the old Clinton ferry dock.

As a young man, Clark can remember swimming with friends at the beach and then hurrying inside the sawmill to warm up from the warmth of the working engine. He also remembers the reason Edward Hinman's name does not show up in the 1900 census.

### 'He died under mysterious circumstances'

By then, Hinman, who was the more adventurous of the two brothers, had left Henry to "mind the store" while he explored the stories about Alaska. "He died under mysterious circumstances," recalled Salisbury. "It was thought to be foul play... robbery."

Salisbury's father sold the sawmill and started logging around what is now known as the Waterman Mill. Clark attended Clinton Scenic View School until it closed in 1921. The school was originally built for the few Clinton children who lived along the beach and were considered too young to walk, mostly through the woods, the two miles to Deer Lake School.

#### The Progressive Club

A shingle bolt logging company was the first means of support for the Erick Berquist family when they

settled in Clinton around 1903. By 1907, Berquist was acting as treasurer in the formation of the Progressive Club in Clinton, which is located off Highway 525 and still serving the community.

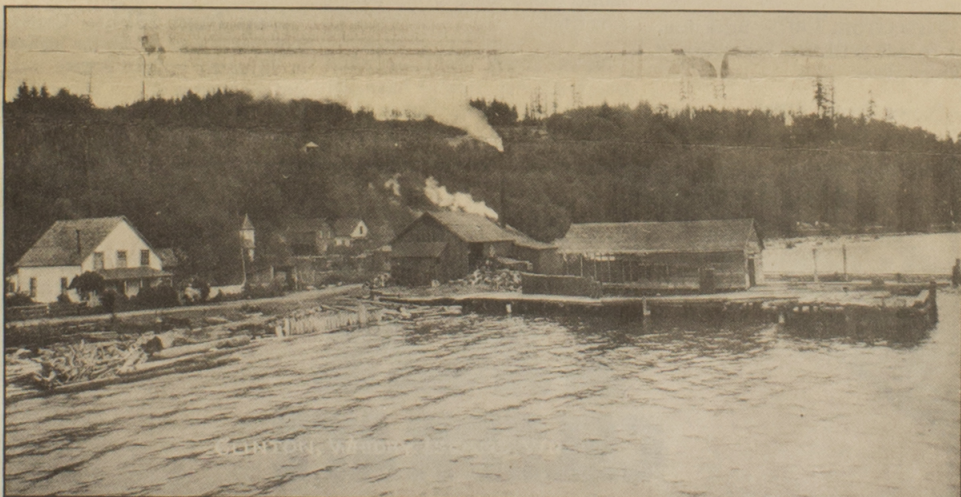
Berquist also operated a farm that produced potatoes, wheat and strawberries for market and sold cream to a mainland dairy. It was his suggestion that the state borrow ahead on gas tax money to help build the Deception Pass Bridge.

Berquist's letters encouraged the Ericksons of Strandquist, Minn., to join him on Whidbey Island. By 1904, John Olaf and Sofia Erickson uprooted their family and came to settle on a farm near Deer Lake. Before long, John's brother Gotthard, joined them and their brother, Erik came from Bjurholm, Sweden to share in the natural wealth of Whidbey Island. By then, Erik had changed his name to Engstrom.

Evert and Anna Swan were both from Finland and met and married in Eureka, Calif., before they first settled in Seattle. An injury ended Swan's construction jobs and brought him to Clinton to be closer to the sawmills with his new saw filing career. He and his wife were active in community affairs. Their big barn near Deer Lake School often served as a stable for neighboring children's horses during school hours. He also served as auctioneer for basket socials and bazaars.

Basket socials were a highlight in entertainment for the early settlers. The ladies would prepare their best recipes and the men would auction for the privilege of sharing the meal with the cook. Other social gatherings, often at the Clinton Progressive Hall, included square dancing and roller skating.

Of course, there was always watching boats dock and unload which is not too much different than watching the present day ferries load and off-load.



Rebuilt shingle mill in Clinton about 1922. The homes from left to right include Clarence Blair's home, former home of Jonathan Salisbury and Lucinda (early Clinton pioneers and location of the former Clinton Hotel), the First Presbyterian Church, the home of Lawrence Blair and home of Frank and Margaret Salisbury. (Photo courtesy of Clark Salisbury.)



The old Clinton Post Office built around 1920 had Guy R. Smith as postmaster. The site is the present home of Harold Wieland. (Photo courtesy of Clark Salisbury.)

Support Your South Whidbey Historical Society

### Serving South Whidbey Since 1975

L&L Furniture & Design in Freeland was formed in 1980 to offer residents of South Whidbey an opportunity to shop locally for furniture and accessories. Incorporating unusual and one of a kind items, and original ideas into their design concepts, the L&L Furniture & Design staff work with clients during every phase of interior work. Interior design services include work with new construction or remodeling, providing consultation for one item or an area, space planning, color coordination to complete supervision of interior design for an entire residence or business.

Elaine Davis, a designer by education and trade, joined L&L Furniture & Design shortly after the design business was formed, and has been assisted over the years by a variety of capable and friendly personnel. Both Elaine and Toni Jones welcomed the addition of Julie Joselyn, a highly qualified interior designer in her own right, to the staff in mid-1988. Today they form a highly personable and effective team, sincere in presenting well-designed, tastefully good quality home furnishings at a reasonable price.

L&L Furniture & Design in Freeland provides a wide selection of upholstered and wooden furniture, lamps, area rugs, wall paper and accessories. L&L Furniture & Design, a division of L&L Woodcraft formed in 1975 by Lynn Wellman and Les Asplund, looks forward to serving south Whidbey Island in the future.

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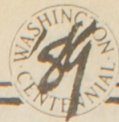
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# Education not easy for pioneers

## One room schools served many South Whidbey areas

By SUE ELLEN WHITE-HANSEN  
Staff correspondent

Children of the earliest settlers on South Whidbey had the forests, shores and abundant resources as their schoolhouse — the tutelage of both their own observations and the learning of their parents and relatives. For most, the Bible was probably the only book the family owned.

But as statehood approached, small clusters of settlers began to dot the island, separated by logging trails which served as roads or footpaths through the woods. Water travel was by far the most efficient. Where several families settled, schools began to appear, built by parents and often taught by young people not long out of school themselves.

The Clinton area had the Brickyard or Scenic Heights School and the Deer Lake School; Maxwellton residents built the Woodland and

Intervale Schools; the Ingleside School served Cultus Bay residents.

The Bayview school is still being used for education as South Whidbey branch of Skagit Valley College. Mutiny Bay and Saratoga both had schools and there were two in Langley.

Ranging from early cabins in the dark woods where school had to be dismissed on dark cloudy days, to window-filled frame structures with elegant lines, South Whidbey's first school houses were one room with all ages attending and being taught by one teacher.

Mable Anthes Gabel recalled in "South Whidbey and Its People", that her first years of schooling, about 1898-1900 lasted about three months of the year. Her schoolteacher, a Mr. Beane, is described as a lighthearted soul who seemed to enjoy playing games with the children more than the teaching. Doubtless, he was not much older than his students.

"So far as I remember, we were all classified as being in the First Reader, old and young alike. At first a couple of the big boys were too bashful to sing, but when the spirit of fun and enthusiasm was injected into the songs, they entered in with merriment," she recalled.

### An honor to stoke the fire

At the remodeling of Bayview School in the early 1980's, Gertrude Becker Siemers, who started school there in 1908, said her father had to chop out a half-mile trail so the children could reach the main trail to the school. There was one room for all eight grades, and as was typical, a wood stove heated the room, it being a privilege to stoke the fire.

The students were a close knit group, with brothers and sisters from a few neighboring families attending each little school. Felix Gabel listed the subjects he studied

at Bayview, from where he graduated in 1917, as reading, writing arithmetic, geography, history, penmanship and spelling.

The students made their own fun and put on singing and dramatic performances for the parents. Recitation was common and teachers would have one grade recite while the others were to study their lessons.

Some students would board out with a family if they were not close enough to go to a school and eighth grade was the limit of early education. Before 1916, grades nine through eleven were taught for a time in the Vroman residence house in Langley, where the office of the Whidbey Record now stands and then in the Kirk Lumber building.

However, to receive a diploma, students had to go to Everett for their senior year. Beginning in 1916, Langley's new school building housed all the grades with separated classrooms and teachers.



(Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Dodge.)

The Bayview School, now Skagit Valley College, was a major step forward in education on South Whidbey.

The first graduating class was in 1920 with William McGinnis, its sole member.

The end of the one-room schoolhouse on South Whidbey came in 1942 with the consolidation of the

school district and the building of a new larger facility, a plan not everyone was happy about, for it meant the breakup of the close knit little groups and separation into graded classes.

## Excerpts from papers highlight pioneer days

One of the most important chronicles available on South Whidbey comes from newspaper articles written during the times. South Whidbey is fortunate to have newspapers which carried mention of this area that date back to 1889.

The following is a list of news items and dates compiled by Gloria Campbell who has been doing her own historical research through old copies of the Whidbey Record, the Island County Times, The Sun and the Farm Bureau News.

**News from 1889** — There is a book of those persons liable for military duty at the Island County courthouse. Nathaniel and Louisa Porter married.

**News from 1891** — April: G.M. Calligan has logging railroad two-and-a-half miles long in Useless Bay. May: Saloon at Clinton closed; business too poor. July: W.J. Weedon and T. Johns donate six acres for cemetery at Bayview. Wharf at Langley has 2,000 cords of wood piled on it (\$2 a cord). Aug: South one-half of Hat Island is burning. Road from Useless Bay to Langley completed. Threshing machine at Useless Bay (only one in vicinity). Oct: 13 heads of families, 14 school children in Langley; Brown Point nearest school.

**News from 1892** — Calligan logging camp at Useless Bay shut down in June. M.L. Weedon has four pet deer, one white one. Langley voting precinct established. First bank on Whidbey Island established.

### Indians go berrying

**News from 1893** — Indians going on annual berrying excursion to Camano Island and Holmes Harbor. Useless Bay crops in splendid condition; abundance of small fruit; apples, pears, plums and cherries are almost a failure. Aug: Hunters from Pt. Ludlow camped at Mutiny Bay (first day one sandhill crane, second day none, third day one California quail, one northwest pine squirrel and one yellowhammer, fourth day out of muck a muck). Mutiny Bay is sure cure for buck fever but death to deer dogs. Feek has railway contract on Hawaiian Islands; will ship 11 teams from island. South Whidbey had two-and-a-half feet of snow. Jacob Anthes set out 1,500 fruit trees; Weedon setting out hickory, black walnut and beech trees. Farmer brothers got 350 salmon in one day. Volcano in Olympics seen from Pt. Townsend.

**News from 1894** — People from South Whidbey went to Coupeville on beach via horseback to pay their taxes, etc. Disastrous fire reported raging on ranch near Midvale; peat three feet deep; they dammed the creek to flood the fire out. Four threshing machines on island: two at Oak Harbor, one at San de Fuca and one at Midvale.

**News from 1895** — Campbell and Atkinson have established a logging camp near Fox Spit. Sill and Evans will move their logging camp from Holmes Harbor next week. Lots of cord wood and bolts (shin-

gle) being cut for export; 100 cords a month by Jacob Anthes, 100 cords by Frank Reed from Useless Bay and a great deal at Fox Spit, Sandy Point and Clinton. Jan: Highest tide ever known on Whidbey Island; a foot over dike at Useless Bay; every dike on south end of island broke. May: School of blackfish three miles long in water off the island.

**News from 1896** — Useless Bay scow load of bolts or cordwood continues to go out of the bay once a week. Bicycle craze is alarming; five new ones coming Sept. 11. Mutiny Bay school closed last Friday for the term; school began in District 12 and Useless Bay (school was held in the warmer months for children's health). A load of squash was taken by boat to Seattle from Bush Point; also a load of potatoes. Kohlwe and Tiemeyer had 20 tons of oats. N.E. Porter (Bob's grandfather) was elected road supervisor for the Mutiny Bay district.

**News from 1897** — New school building on N.E. Porter land; (first school in Mutiny Bay 1885; another new school built on Porter land in 1912, torn down 1947). Road surveyed from head of the island to Coupeville.

**News from 1898** — Trail completed to remove all brush except trees two feet through to Coupeville; good bicycle road from Langley to Useless Bay and fairly good wheeling from Clinton as far as Bush Point via Sandy Point and Langley. Entire region south of Holmes Harbor was a howling wilderness less than 10 years ago. Road to Coupeville shall be a county road 60 feet wide. Exodus from Whidbey Island to Klondike continues. Useless Bay: over 60 tons of mangles on less than an acre.

**News from 1899** — Missing and 1900. 18 telephones in 1900.

**News from 1901** — A post office has been secured for Mutiny Bay to be called Austin. Post office at Bush Point discontinued. Philip Wahl place being logged. Schooner Whidbey launched.

**News from 1902** — Solicitor for Seattle Times calling on ranchers. Mail carried from Austin to Langley beginning July 1. Forest fire in Clinton. Freeland has ripe strawberries. First Thursday Club discusses Women's Rights. First auto on the island.

**News from 1903** — Diking to be done at Useless Bay this summer.

Steamer *Dauntless* runs between Fort Casey and Pt. Townsend. Ex-sheriff Weedon logging near Langley. 31 pupils in Langley school. Woods closed to slash burning or chopping without permission July 1 through Oct. 1.

**News from 1904** — Holmes Harbor full of fishing outfits. First RFD mail route; Langley, Newell (Lone Lake), Freeland, Austin and back; first in county; Mr. Brooks carrier.

**News from 1906** — Everybody at Saratoga against saloon at Langley.

**News from 1907** — Brick plant to be built at Clinton. Telephones to Skagit Head.

**News from 1908** — Island County population 4,118; Coupeville 760; Oak Harbor 900; San de Fuca 185; Camano 242; Utsalady 428; Useless Bay, Langley and Skagit Head 1,603. 200 drawn for jury duty; no more qualified. Duncan McMaster has small saw mill.

**News from 1909** — Logging to begin at Holmes Harbor. Clinton Sandstone, Brick and Lime Company burned Saturday night. Holmes Harbor slash caught fire and burned orchard, crops and several cords of shingle bolts. Maxwellton has post office.

**News from 1910** — Dance pavilion built at Glendale by Del Smith. Phone lines to Maxwellton completed.

**News from 1911** — *Calista* launched in Aug. Steamer *Fairhaven* sinks in Nov. Steamer *Vashon* burns in Dec. Gas drag saw built (wood

cutting).

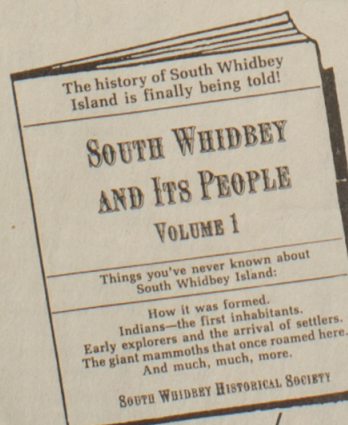
**News from 1912** — Brick plant rebuilt. Post Office in Langley robbed in June. New school being built at Mutiny Bay, two story. Mrs. Jones caught speeding her auto over the streets of Austin last week. Langley Road to Ken's Korner being built.

**News from 1913** — Silver salmon selling for 15 cents each. Mutiny Bay school had Victor Talking Machine.

### First auto fatality

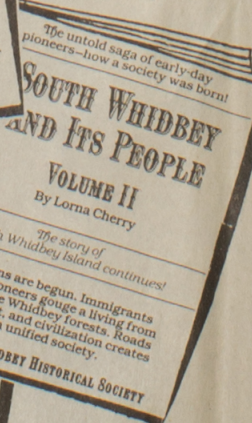
**News from 1914** — Useless Bay tide of Jan. 25 was the highest in 30 years; bridges floated away and the road is almost impassable. First fatal auto accident in Island County, at Fort Casey.

## South Whidbey's OWN HISTORY

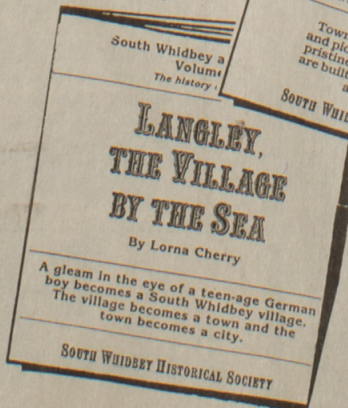


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