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Spindrift Two

Summer 1993



Tidbits of history

In 1889, the year of our statehood, squirrels in Douglas County were reported to be devastating the crops; eight postal clerks in Spokane threatened to strike because their \$55 a month salaries were too low; and in Puyallup 150 Indians from Port Rupert, B.C. arrived to pick hops at \$1 per box and were expected to earn \$4,000.

The Chinese community in Olympia celebrated a feast day with a hired band of musicians from Seattle and their homes illuminated with lanterns.

Pasco was in the running for state capital, and pledged \$40,000 and 300 acres of land to build the capitol. They adopted the slogan "Keep Your Eye on Pasco" and hoped that the Oct. 1 statewide vote would be for Pasco.

A Walla Walla newspaper urged citizens to keep the state capital at Olympia. The paper argued that Olympia's cost of living was low and that the city had a reputation for healthfulness and morality.

In 1889 in Tacoma the 8th annual meeting and tournament of the Northwestern Fireman's Association began. More than 20 teams competed ranging from horse racing to hook and ladder contests. \$4,200 in prize money was available for winners, who came from all over the western United States and British Columbia.

The cornerstone for the new building of Puget Sound University (now the University of Puget Sound) was laid by Bishop Bowman of the Methodist Church.

In the 1889 elections, Elisha Ferry was elected governor of Washington state over Eugene Semple, a Democrat who had boasted he would win the election and thereby eradicate the Republicans "like a Kansas cyclone."

An Ellensburg paper complained that women could not vote, while undesirable men could: "The veriest drunken loafer and vagabond in the land could vote, but respectable women could not," it said.

On women's votes ... In 1889, voters rejected 16,613 to 35,577 a proposal to restore women's right to vote. Women had voted in Washington Territory from 1883 to 1888 when courts ruled that the territorial legislature had no right to let them do so.

Women were allowed to vote in Walla Walla, but required to deposit their ballots in segregated ballot boxes. Of the total of 1,462 votes, only 90 were cast by women.

In the election for the state capitol site, Olympia got 25,430 votes; North Yakima, 14,711; Ellensburg, 12,833; Centralia, 607; Yakima City, 314; Pasco, 130. No city held a majority so another election was to

be held between the top three.

Elections approved statehood, the constitution, and rejected women's suffrage.

In 1889 in La Conner wild game was so numerous that ducks cost only \$1.25 a dozen when bought in the streets.

In Tacoma the Stevedores' Union demanded pay of 55 cents an hour for daytime work and \$1 per hour for nighttime work and a nine hour work day. Current wages were 40 cents and 80 cents.

Commenting on plans to sell the University of Washington's campus and move away from downtown, the Walla Walla Union said "The University is little more than a local institution for the benefit of Seattle."

The ship *William A. Campbell* set a record by reaching Port Townsend in eight days from San Diego, California. ✱





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One family stayed on its land

Col. Ulrich Freund, a former Swiss Army Officer, was one of the first three men to settle Oak Harbor. He came by Indian canoe with C. W. Sumner, a "Yankee" and Martin Taftson, a Norwegian. Freund took the Donation Claim on the west side of what is today the city of Oak Harbor, west of Highway 20, and never married.

In 1872 he sent to Switzerland for a niece and nephew, Arnold and Elspeth Freund, and they sailed from Antwerp in Belgium for Philadelphia. Their father had bought second class tickets for them, but being able to speak only German, they were sent to steerage where Arnold became ill and remained so to the end of the journey.

The boy and girl took a train for San Francisco where they spent two anxious weeks trying to learn where Oak Harbor was. They were finally told it was near the Caribou Mines in British Columbia, so they took passage on a boat bound for Victoria.

Uncle Ulrich had asked a neighbor, a Mr. Walker who was going to Victoria, to be on the lookout for the two, and when he found them he brought them to Oak Harbor in a small boat. Arnold was so ill he had to be carried to the home of his uncle. He recovered, and later became a farmer.

His sister stayed for some time then left for Port Townsend where she was employed in the home of a German family. From the children's textbooks, Elspeth learned English.

Elspeth later married Captain Jonothan Adams who had come to Oak Harbor in 1852. They were married in Coupeville at the State Hotel in 1878, and the wedding party included Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Nunan and Captain and Mrs. Edward Barrington who went to Coupeville from Oak Harbor in an Indian canoe.



Five children were born to Elspeth Freund and Jonothan Adams, Ollie, Warren and Irvin at Coupeville; George and Elsie were born at Port Townsend where Captain Adams bought a home and

built a store during the "boom" years. In 1888 Captain Adams sold his boat and retired, and in 1896 moved to Oak Harbor. He died July 29, 1902. Elspeth died Oct. 13, 1920.

The donation claim taken by Ulrich Freund is the only one still held by members of the family of original settlers. Arnold "Arnie" Freund and his wife Betty live on the Claim, overlooking the city, and their children grew up here.

Arnold Freund was Sheriff of Island County for some years. He has lived all his life on his great uncle's claim. ✱

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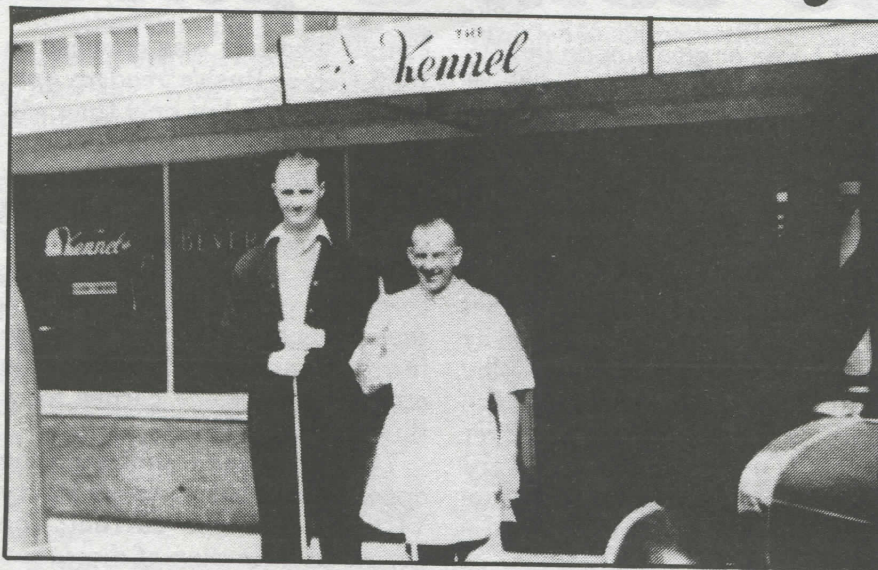
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A look at Depression Era Whidbey

In the early 1930s, 700th Avenue was the northern boundary of the town of Oak Harbor, and that's probably because the elementary and high school were located on that corner where Memorial Stadium is today. A new high school, now part of OH Elementary, was built in 1935 and the intersection was known as High School Corner.

The Great Depression was here and the Public Works Administration came to the rescue of working men with families, with Goldie Road coming into the picture, from High School Corner north, through what was then part of the Neil Ranch. John Goldie lived at the end of the road, near Ault Field.

In 1946 Chris Fakkema built the Chimes Cafe and across the street a service station and store sprang up. From then on, North Midway began to take on the shape of a shopping center. In 1967 Midway Blvd. was the only entrance to Oak



A young John Vanderzicht, proprietor of The Kennel Cafe, and barber Bill O'Shaunessey pose with pool cues in front of their 1930s era establishments.

Harbor from the north.

The area became known as Chimes Corner (even without the never-installed chimes). The restaurant closed some years ago, and several businesses have occupied the site, most recently KJTT Radio and now a beauty shop.

The schools remain in possession of the 10 acres that were given to them many years ago by pioneer farmer William Izett.

In 1948, a Souvenir Edition commemorating Whidbey Island's Centennial was published by the *Farm Bureau News*, "reviewing one hundred years of progress, from 1848 to 1948."

The 24-page pamphlet featured brief histories of Oak Harbor, Coupeville and Langley; "The Daughters of Pioneers Keep the Flame," and a story of the Carl Engle family, descendants of one of Whidbey Island's "Mercer girls," with Betty Engle, Iris Engle and Carolee Engstrom, wearing the pioneer clothing of Flora A. P. Engle.

Lyla Libbey and Phyllis Sloth were pictured in nightgowns worn by pioneer grandmothers, and Sadie Morse Davis was pictured in the black mull dress and beaded shawl she wore to the Governor's Ball, accompanying her legislative father, Captain George Morse, who represented Whidbey Island. ❧

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Island had its own Pocohontes

The Glasgow family holds a unique place in the annals of Whidbey Island history. Thomas Glasgow was the Island's first settler, although for just a short time. He came to Whidbey in 1848 with a friend to the shore west of Ebey's Prairie. His friend left but Glasgow had brought with him chickens and a few livestock and planted a garden.

When Patkanim, the warlike Chief of area Indians held a powwow on Whidbey Island to incite the Indians against the white settlers, his daughter warned Glasgow and the two fled by canoe to Olympia, then Smithfield. The Indians burned his house and stole his stock, but missed catching Whidbey's earliest settler and the Indian girl who played the Pocohontas role.

The couple was married and she took the name of Julia. They had three children, a boy, Howard, and two girls, Charlotte and Abigail, both renowned for their beauty. While Thomas and Julia never re-

turned to Whidbey to live, their two daughters were adopted and raised by the pioneer Holbrook family after the death of their parents.

The name of another Scotsman, William Perkins Hastie, is forever inscribed in the history of Whidbey Island by Hastie Lake, a sea of reeds between Oak Harbor and San de Fuca. Until the 1930s the lake was clear and full of water, where North Whidbey Islanders skated in wintertime.

The lake was located on the Hastie Donation Claim of 1853, and continued being a lake for the next 80 years. In the 1930s a group of hunters allegedly seeded the lake with wild rice and wild celery to attract ducks. The seed was contaminated with cattails which took over to produce a cattail marsh.

Hastie left Glasgow in the early 1830s for Liverpool to work at his trade of stone cutter. There he met Margaret Peer who was Welsh, and a registered nurse. They were mar-

ried and had four boys. In 1845 the family sailed for America on a square rigger, and one of the boys fell down a hatch and was killed. The bereaved family reached New Orleans and then came by wagon train to The Dalles, Oregon, arriving in 1849. It had taken them four years to travel from the Old World to the New.

At Fort Laramie, during a cholera epidemic Margaret organized a "sick train" and nursed the patients through. In accounts of the journey in the Washington State Library Margaret Hastie is hailed as an Angel of Mercy.

In the spring of 1853 the schooner on which the Hastie family traveled to Puget Sound had to wait patiently outside Deception Pass for the tide to change before completing their journey to Penn Cove. While waiting, they went ashore in a small boat for a picnic at Cranberry Lake, then a saltwater lagoon. ❖



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