

Spindrift Two

50¢

Volume 7 Number 1

Whidbey Island's Own Magazine



Summer 1983

'Halo Polalie' Saved 1860s Celebration

An "Old Fashioned Fourth" was celebrated on Whidbey Island in the 1860s, some 120 years ago, but with a whole different cast of characters.

The Indians had not as yet gone to their reservations, and there were a number of them who came to the "White Man's Pow Wow," to be held in Crescent Harbor. Among the Indians was Oak Harbor's Billy Barlow, Chief of the Skagits, and highly regarded by his white brothers.

Tom Squi-squi, later named Tom Martin, was Chief of the Indians who lived at Oak Harbor. Tom had a bad reputation and it was said he had killed several of his tribesmen. Tom and Billy were far from being good friends.

Major Haller was the kingpin of the Fourth of July celebration, which was held on his property, and invitations went out many weeks in advance, all over the Island. The Kelloggs, who lived where Fort Casey is now, hired a large Indian canoe for the eight-mile trip from Coupeville to Crescent Harbor, and took with them provisions for a long day's outing.

Others came on horseback and by wagon where roads permitted, and Crescent Harbor neighbors walked. The celebration was one bright spot in the lives of the pioneer families who worked so hard to make homes on Whidbey Island.

For the celebrating, Major Haller had a supply of liquor hidden in a thick clump of brush, where he took his close friends, Captains Swift, Loveland, Barrington and others, for "a nip."

The Indians observed this, and when the brush rendezvous was unattended, they quietly made visits themselves, growing uglier by the minute as was always the case when they came in contact with the white man's "firewater."

It was inevitable that Billy Barlow and Tom Squi-squi should wind up in an argument, and they were surrounded by Indians who awaited the outcome.

Finally, Tom pulled out a pistol and pointed it at Billy. Dr. Kellogg caught his arm before he had a chance to pull the trigger. Mrs. Tom Squi-squi, unperturbed, pulled on Dr. Kellogg,

saying, "Wake mesachie, halo polalie, halo polalie," which in English meant, "Not dangerous, no powder."


Mrs. Tom, knowing her husband's potential for trouble and his disposition, and sensing that something might go amiss where so many Indians were gathered, had unloaded her husband's pistol on the way to the celebration. Tom was able only to click the pistol several times in Billy's face, without results.

Captain Barrington later observed that if Billy had been killed they would have hung Tom Squi-squi from the tallest tree, which would have been a "poor way to end a Fourth of July celebration."

Fourth of July celebrations were a popular way of getting together on the Island in the early days. Dr. Kellogg told of a Fourth of July celebration in a grove on Ebey's Prairie where the Eason Ebey house stood.

In an account of the event given later it was noted that Miss Mae Haller and her cousin Nellie Moore of Crescent Harbor came over to the celebration with Major Haller.

Another was held in the late 1860s on Bozarth's Hill, when a company of Marines and a number of officers came from Port Townsend. The Marines furnished the band music; there was horse racing, an oration, and a free dinner. ☒



Yarns, Needlepoint. Rugs,
Instruction
1106 W. Pioneer Way
Downtown Oak Harbor
675-6931

oak tree

Miss Print

Printing & Copy Service

Business Cards
Letter Heads
Envelopes
Flyers
Wedding Announcements
Rubber stamps
Signature stamps
Magnetic signs

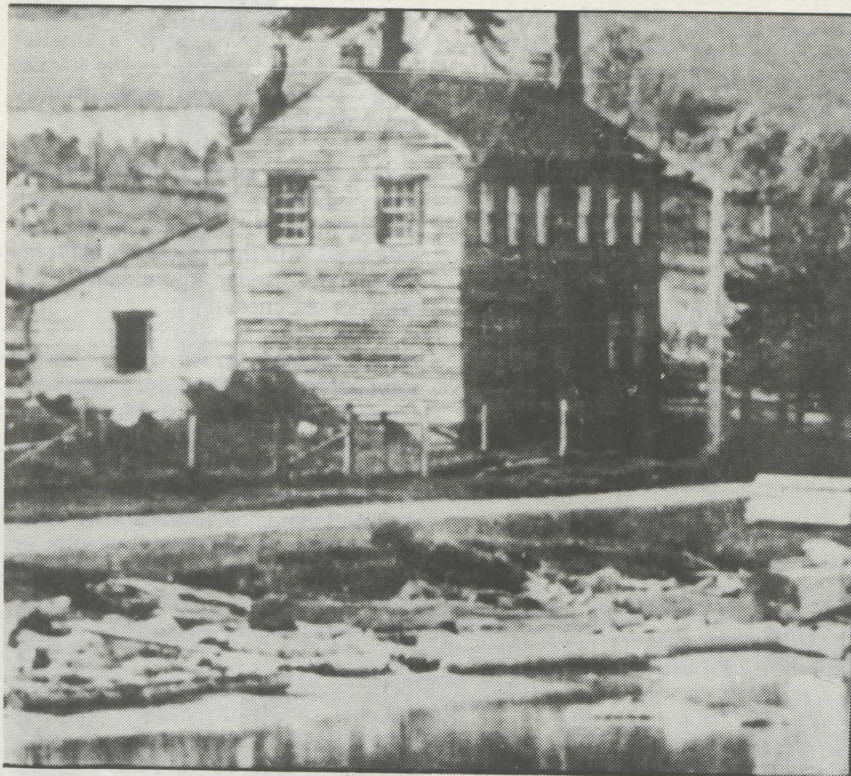


1004 W. Pioneer
Oak Harbor, WA.

Frank — Chris
All your Printing needs 675-2002

Whidbey's First and Only Execution

7



WHIDBEY ISLAND'S first public building, the old courthouse at the head of Penn's Cove, is still in use, but has been remodeled into a private residence.

The old courthouse building which still stands at the head of Penn Cove, was built during the administration of Isaac Stevens, Governor of Washington Territory. It became the site of the first and only execution to take place on Whidbey Island.

An Indian killed a Mr. Church who had settled and built a small trading post in Crescent Harbor. He was killed for his watch and gold rings that he foolishly displayed. The Indian was sentenced to death, and a scaffold built just south of the courthouse. A great crowd, mostly Indians, gathered for the event.

Thomas Hastie was one of the guards assigned to a large unfinished storehouse, which made a good place for them to keep an eye on any possible disturbance.

But the Indians came forward and with arms upraised to heaven chanted a prayer to the Great God. They kept this up for an hour or more, then the Sheriff gave the signal and the hanging took place.

A hundred years or so later, a fir tree growing by the shore was designated by some as the "hanging tree," but according to Hastie's account the hanging took place on a scaffold. ✕

Pioneer Cafe

SUNDAY DINNER

Prime Rib \$ 9.95 —\$13.95

All dinners include: Stuffed baked potato or Rice Pilaf, Soup or Salad and Fresh Vegetable.

FULL CHAMPAGNE BUFFET SUNDAY BRUNCH

10 a.m.-2 p.m. **\$7.85** per person

Reservations please

Dinner Hours:

Sun. thru Thurs.
5-10 p.m.

Fri. & Sat.
4:30-10:30 p.m.

ENTERTAINMENT. . . .

Every
Friday & Saturday
Evening
Starting at 9 p.m.

- Banquet Room
- Catering



**1092 W. Pioneer Way
Oak Harbor 679-3133**

PHOTO MILL

The Photography Store

5-Hour Film Processing

In by 11 a.m.
out by 4 p.m.

Monday
thru
Saturday



**1294 W. Pioneer Way
Oak Harbor**

675-7607

'Pig War' Flag of San Juan Discovered

by Dorothy Neil

A recent visit to the "Pig War" site on San Juan Island, the American and English camps, and the resulting stories, brought about an interesting development. The discovery of an American flag with 28 stars, purported to be "the first flag to fly at Fort San Juan."

The relic is all hand-made, the stars sewn in tiny overcast stitching to the blue background, the red and white stripes held together with a running stitch.

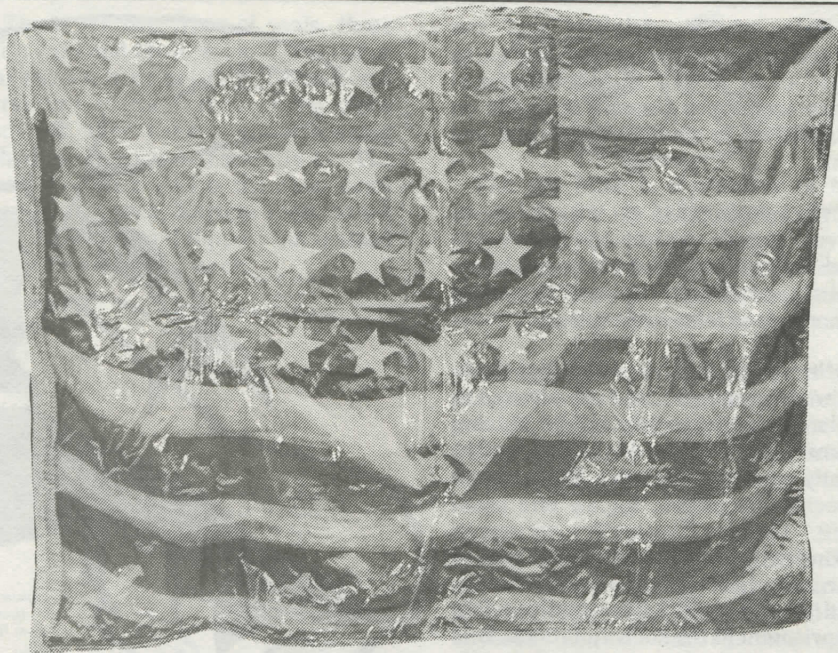
The old flag, still mostly intact, has been placed on a cotton backing to discourage further deterioration, and the front is shielded by a sheet of plastic. The stripes have been shortened, possibly because the flag's whipping in the wind shredded the fabric.

The relic was accompanied by a letter of authenticity which states, "This is the first flag to fly at Fort San Juan," signed by Gene A. Hilby, whose grandmother knew the Mrs. Connell through whom the flag was preserved.

In the biography of Cecilia Hoffercamp Connell, Whatcom Chapter No. 5, Daughters of the Pioneers, she states: "One memorable event happened during my grandfather's (Allen Francis) tenure of consulship. It was the raising of the United States flag over the military settlement on San Juan Island by my grandfather in 1871, just previous to the time the award was to be made by the arbitrator, King William of Germany, as to the ownership of the Island, by fixing the International Boundary between the United States and Canada. That flag is in my possession."

President Lincoln had appointed Allen Francis American consul at Victoria, B.C., a post he assumed in 1862. His daughter, Cecilia Jane, later married Herman Hoffercamp. In 1867 the Hoffercamps came by steamer to Victoria, and from there by small boat to Bellingham Bay where Herman took charge of the Bellingham Bay Coal Company's general store, the telegraph office and the post office.

As telegrapher, Hoffercamp sent the message of the first ascent of Mount Baker in 1871 to Harper's Weekly. His three children were Louis, Francis and Cecilia (later Connell), who was two



years old in 1867 when the family came to Bellingham.

The "memorable event" described by Mrs. Connell made the American flag raised in 1871 over American Camp almost a sacred relic, lovingly kept by the family all these 112 years, until it came into the possession of Gene Hilby.

Hilby states, "my grandmother knew Mrs. Connell when she lived in Bellingham. My grandmother is Bertha Rose Hilby, born in 1899, my

grandfather was Gene Allison Hilby."

The flag is now in the possession of Dennis Andrews of Bellevue, formerly of Oak Harbor, and was loaned for the purpose of the picture and story.

The flag will never "fly" again; the small hand-sewn stitches that hold the stars in place and the stripes together are probably the strongest part of "Old Glory."

Even though the name of the seamstress who constructed it is lost in antiquity, it's still a grand old flag! ☒



**fashion comes and goes...
classics you can count
on every day**

**The
Casual
House**

Old Town, Oak Harbor

- Danskin • Condor
- First Glance • Esprit
- Calvin Klein • Bali
- Olga • Miss Elaine
- Koret • Graff
- Hedy Knits
- And many more

1142 Pioneer Way

*Expensive in every way
but the price.*

When San de Fuca was Young

San de Fuca, Whidbey Island's "boom town" of the 1890s, when speculation was rife and developers and town visionaries were plating a townsite as far as Hastie Lake. Today San de Fuca is a peaceful location at the head of Penn's Cove, with rolling fields overlooking a magnificent view of the snow-capped Cascade Mountains.

It's three-story hotel is gone, the bustle of its sawmills, the surveying crews, the business people are no more, and the steamer Fairhaven no longer unloads passengers and freight at the dock that is used now only by young fishing types.

Settled at the half-century and named Coveland, the little settlement on Penn's Cove became the county seat of government, and the county courthouse, built in the 1850s is still standing, the public building in the state of Washington.

Kennedy's Lagoon, so named in the 1930s after a county sheriff, is a pleasant scenic tidal pond, where one of Whidbey Island's first sawmills depended on the incoming and outgoing tides for power. The narrow beach at the head of the Cove remembers the so-called "hanging tree" where rumor had it early day felons were summarily executed, although there's no proof that anything of the kind occurred. And the road to West Beach recalls when the trees were cut in preparation for a canal that was to be built through for ships' easy access to the Sound.

Old San de Fuca school.



In shops and home there was exciting talk of such modern possibilities as a railroad, a starch factory, and a teachers' Normal School for San de Fuca. The hotel bulged with salesmen and entrepreneurs ready to cash in on the expected expansion and development; moustached men in black derbies and checked waistcoats, wearing gold watch chains and smoking big black cigars.

Horse-drawn farm wagons and sleek buggies vied with each other for parking stalls. On the hill the sound of hammer and saw pock-marked the air, as homes went up to house the expected bulge in population.

Into this "boom town" in 1893 was born Madge Darst, who has lived all her life at San de Fuca, and who remembers how life was at the turn of the century, following the bursting of the boom bubble, and the gradual

decline of one of Puget Sound's early settlements.

She remembers going to school in the white, one-room school that still stands high on the hill overlooking the Cove. In a recent newspaper interview with Fred Obee of the Whidbey News Times, she reminisced about those days.

"I remember growing up in San de Fuca. Those were happy times. We had the beach to live on, rowing boats and fishing off the dock." She remembers picking violets in the ravine near the school before livestock destroyed the wild flowers in later years, and how the sternwheeler Fairhaven would steam up to the dock with the town's mail.

"It was a happy time for kids," she recalled. "It wasn't a mad rush and everybody knew everybody." ☒

Put a little music
in your life.



YAMAHA

PortaSound™

Now you can turn anytime, anyplace into a musical event . . . with Yamaha PortaSound. 3 models now in stock.

\$150 to \$250

Whidbey Music Center

1088 West Pioneer Way
Oak Harbor

675-1211



HAIR DESIGN FOR MEN & WOMEN

HAIR and skin care items

China shoes

110 First Street
Langley, Washington
98260
321-1596

9:30-5 Wed. thru Sat.

Louise Holloway Stanley

Great Seal Was Approved in 1782

On July 4, 1776, following the signing of the Declaration of Independence, John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress said:

"We are now a nation and I am ready to hear you vote on the question, 'Resolved that Dr. Franklin, Mr. Thomas Jefferson and Mr. John Adams be a committee to prepare a device for a Seal of the United States of North America.'"

That committee and other committees worked for six years until the Great Seal in its present form was finally approved by Congress in 1782, and bears the date of its authorization, July 4, 1776.

The seven white and six red stripes on a shield with a solid blue field above, represent 13 original states united in the Congress. A North American bald eagle holds an olive branch in its right talon, and a bundle of 13 arrows in its left talon, to signify the United States' preference for peace but preparation for war.



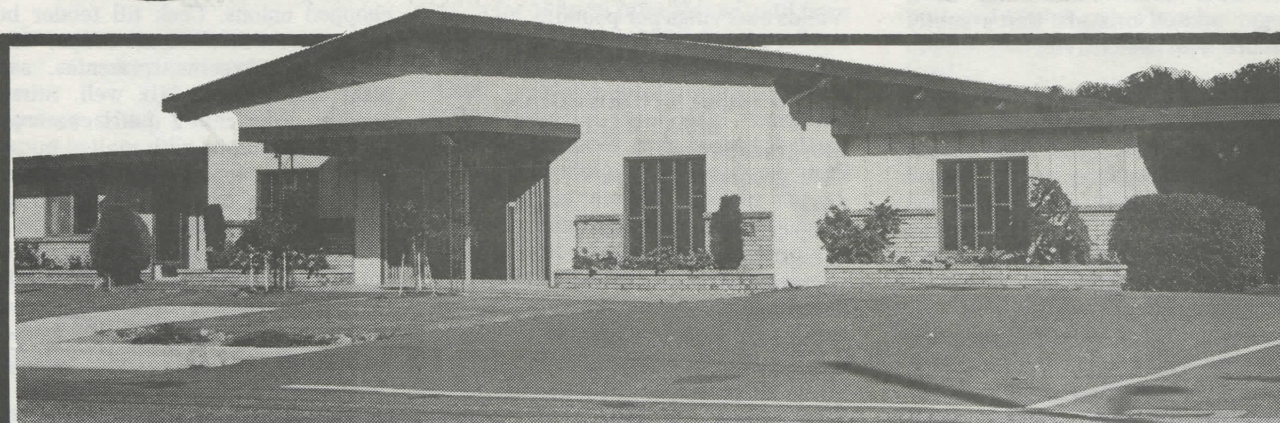
UNCLE SAM and MISS LIBERTY travel down Pioneer Way in style in this photo of an early Oak Harbor 4th of July parade.



In the eagle's beak is a scroll on which is inscribed "E Pluribus Unum," meaning One From Many, or one Federal Government made up of many states. Over the eagle's head are 13 stars on a blue field in the rays of the

sun surrounded by clouds, a constellation symbolizing the birth of the new Nation.

The Great Seal also serves as the national coat-of-arms of the United States. ☒



Bartleson Funeral Chapel

6374 60th N.W.

Serving Whidbey Island for 21 years

675-3192

For Thomas Hastie, Young Pioneer,

Many early day pioneers who settled on Whidbey Island came overland from the East, after leaving Europe for "the land of the free and the home of the brave." One of these was Thomas P. Hastie.

Hastie came to America in 1845 from Liverpool, England; he was of Scottish and Welsh parentage. Thomas, his parents and baby brother William spent seven weeks in a sailing vessel, crossing the Atlantic to New Orleans. Going by boat to Illinois, they bought two teams of horses and drove on to Dan County, Wisconsin.

Five years later, the Hastie family joined a train of 13 wagons going West, which was later joined by three more wagons.

Crossing the plains was not an easy trip. The Hasties lost two oxen, and at Fort Laramie cholera broke out, and two of the train died. Mrs. Hastie had been a nurse, and through her care her family did not get the disease, and many who did have it recovered.

By the time the train traversed the Oregon Trail to where the path divided turning to California, they were met by a mountaineer on horseback going East. He advised them against going to California, saying that the vast number of people who had already arrived there had exhausted the pasture and food supply. The little band then continued on the Oregon Trail, being joined by an old man and his wife and son.

Family Left Alone

With provisions running low and late fall approaching, the Hastie family went on alone after being left behind by the train. Indians fishing on the Columbia paid no attention to them, and Tom's father was able to trade clothes with them for smoked salmon and camas roots, a good change in diet.

Crossing a river with a covered wagon was quite a procedure. The wagon beds were removed, cracks were chinked, and they were used as scows. Each man carried enough rope to reach across any river they forded. The line was taken across by a horse and rider, then trip after trip was made with the wagon bed. Much time was lost in getting oxen across the river; they cannot swim facing the sun.

One frightening incident in the life of the 15-year-old Thomas occurred when he was sent back along the trail to retrieve his father's only extra pair of pants, overlooked when the wagon was repacked for travel. The family drove on as time could not be wasted.

Thomas found the pants and started back when two Indians on horseback rode toward him. He ran as fast as he could, and the Indians rode along, one on each side of him, talking and waving their arms, but he could not understand them.

Finally, one Indian reached down and patted the boy on the back, and

they both rode away with all speed, laughing loudly. Thomas admitted later that he had never been so scared in all his life.

Soldiers Meet Them

As the Hastie family moved along the Columbia River they met men from the fort at The Dalles. The emigrant train that had preceded them had been anxious about their welfare and had sent soldiers to meet the Hastie party with hardtack and other food, which was most welcome. They took Mrs. Hastie and her little boy back with them to the fort and left Mr. Hastie and Thomas to follow with the oxen.

Hastie had brought a level and trowel with him from England and found work that winter with good wages. In the spring of 1853 they took passage on a boat bound for the Hudson Bay Company at Fort Steilacoom. The captain of the boat had heard how Captain Coupe had sailed through Deception Pass the season before, becoming the first to sail a full-rigged ship through the pass, and this captain also brought his ship through, making him the second to accomplish the feat.

In June of 1853, the Hastie family landed on Whidbey Island, where Hastie cut wood in Penn's Cove for the steamer May Ellen, a boat often referred to in early history accounts. He later cut and loaded spars, a business established by Thomas Cranney on Camano Island.

"We're the one to come to"



ISLAND SAVINGS and LOAN ASSOCIATION

Offices in Oak Harbor, Anacortes, Clinton, Ferndale, Freeland, Mt. Vernon,
Port Townsend, Poulsbo, Stanwood, Sedro-Woolley, Sequim,
Friday Harbor, Concrete, Port Angeles

Life Was Not Easy, But Exciting!

Camano Spars

Cutting timber in the 1850s was hard and hazardous work. The spars measured from 150 to 200 feet in length. They were hauled to boat landings on skid roads with several yokes of oxen, then taken in sailing vessels to all parts of the world.

Masts for sailing ships used these spars, and a French company took the Cranney spars. Leaving Penn Cove, the vessels went around Cape Horn, and through the Straits of Magellan on their way to Europe. Many of the ships were lost on the way.

On the Skagit Delta

Pioneer life was hard for families, and when the Hastie family moved by schooner from Oak Harbor to the Delta, they had only one neighbor. It was a hard winter and the family lived mainly on potatoes, trading them to the Indians for salmon, clams and venison. Friendly Indians came from as far as Camano Island to visit and trade.

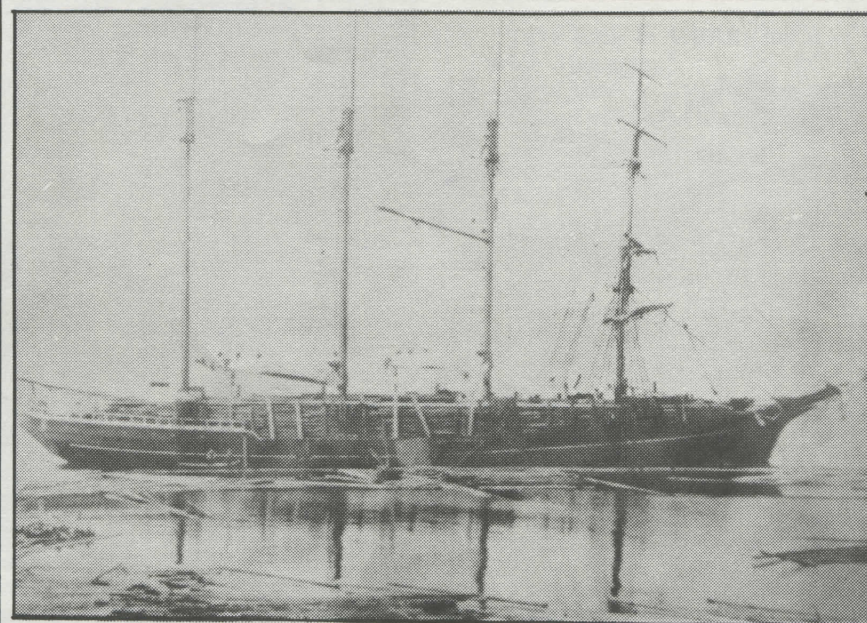
A lack of sugar sent Mrs. Hastie to Seattle where she visited a daughter and bought a supply of much needed groceries. She missed the boat home that night on the "Fanny Lake." The steamer sank in Deception Pass after a boiler explosion, and the passengers, cargo, and Mrs. Hastie's groceries all were lost.

Later Mrs. Hastie and two daughters, Laura and Maggie, went on a five-mile trek to Skagit City for sugar. Coming back, carrying the heavy sack of sugar, they found a bridge across "Dry Slough" had been started, but only the stringers were in place.

Maggie, carrying the sugar and looking down while over the water, lost her balance and dropped the sugar. She clung to the crosspiece of the bridge until her mother drew her to safety. Maggie was safe but again the sugar was lost, and the family resigned themselves to a sugarless winter.

Indian Times

Thomas Hastie told of Northern Indians making raids on the lower Skagits, taking many captives. In May of 1858, he and James Hervick, both in the employ of Cranney, went down the beach at Brown's Point. Seeing a Haidah Indian war canoe approaching



THE PROVIDENCE, from Mexico, loading spars at Penn Cove about 1910.

shore, they hid and saw them attack a small band of Camano Indians. There were 14 braves in the war canoe, armed with Hudson's Bay flintlocks.

The war cries intensified as the two parties came together. As the canoe reached shallow water, the man kneeling in the stern deftly swept his paddle, and the canoe swung broadside to shore, the paddles disappeared, and a volley of shots crashed out. Six of the surprised band on shore were killed. The rest returned the volley and retired to a protected spot.

The canoe retreated as swiftly as it attacked and the extent of their injuries were never learned.

In the 1850s, there were thousands of Indians on Whidbey Island, but they were always friendly to the settlers. They sometimes buried their dead, but more often placed them in hammocks or canoes, suspended in trees. Later, when Hastie took up a homestead on the Skagit River, he found many dead bodies in canoes in the trees on his place.

Thomas Hastie remembered the old Cross on Whidbey when he arrived here in 1853. It stood on the Alexander place in Coupeville, and he said it looked very old at that time. It was hand-hewn, and Hastie said nothing about it suggested the work of Indians. (Part of this Cross is still preserved

near the Alexander Blockhouse in waterfront Coupeville.)

Ebey Assassination

Young Thomas Hastie was present when Colonel Ebey was assassinated by Haidah Indians. He and Mrs. Ebey and her two little boys and little girl, and a visiting couple, Mr. and Mrs. Collins of Olympia, fled through a window of the Ebey home, running to the home of William B. Engle to give the alarm.

Engle and the neighboring Hill brothers, armed themselves and ran to the Ebey home where they found that the Indians had cut off the head of the Colonel and had fled north with it after ransacking the house.

The head was later recovered by the Captain of the "Beaver" and returned to the Ebey family, where it was interred in the Colonel's grave.

In 1864, Thomas Hastie joined the army and served in the Civil War for three years. He married a Mrs. Scott on Whidbey Island, a widow with three children.

In 1870 Thomas Hastie homesteaded land on the Skagit Delta. He is regarded as one of the "pioneer fathers" of both Island and Skagit Counties. Hastie Lake and Hastie Lake Road on North Whidbey are named for him. ☒



This was Oak Harbor's water side about 1920, with the Oak Harbor dock running from the main street of town to the channel. Steamers brought the daily mail, freight and passengers to the docking facilities. The big building to the left, higher on the hill was the Odd Fellows Hall for many years before it was destroyed by fire. Today the dock is gone, and Flintstone Freeway extends as a second "main street" parallel to West Pioneer Way. The old buildings along the waterfront have been destroyed, new buildings added to both West Pioneer and Flintstone.



We accept personal
check, M/C, Visa

- Smoked Salmon
- Beef Jerky
- Sausages
- Bacon & Hams
- Gift packs

Shipped anywhere
in the U.S.A.

- Custom Smoking

Seabolt's SmokeHouse

4948 Hwy. 20, Oak Harbor, One mile South of Deception Pass
Hours — 10 a.m. 'til 6 p.m.

We ship anywhere in U.S.A. — 675-6485

Take Time

Take time to **WORK**, for it is the price of success.

Take time to **THINK**, for it is the source of power.

Take time to **PLAY**, for it is the secret of youth.

Take time to **READ**, for it is the foundation of knowledge.

Take time to **WORSHIP**, for it washes the dust of earth from the eyes.

Take time to **ENJOY FRIENDS**, for it is the source of happiness.

Take time to **LOVE**, for it is the sacrament of life.

Take time to **DREAM**, for it hitches the soul to the stars.

Take time to **LAUGH**, for it lifts life's loads.

Take time to **PLAN**, for it is the secret of having time for the first nine.



The backside of Pioneer Way still looked like this in the early 1960s when Flintstone Freeway was inching its way east between the town and the shore. Later, the slough was filled in and the space used for parking and building. The two old structures on the right are gone.

Take Ten

Speak to people. There's nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting.

Smile at people. It takes 72 muscles to frown and only 14 to smile.

Call people by name. The sweetest music to anyone's ears is the sound of his own name.

Be friendly and helpful. If you would have friends, be friendly.

Be cordial. Speak and act as if everything you did were a genuine pleasure.

Be interested in people. You can learn to like everybody if you try.

Be generous with praise, cautious with criticism.

Be considerate of the feelings of others. It will be appreciated.

Be thoughtful of the opinions of others. There are three sides to every controversy: yours, the other person's, and the right one.

Be alert to give service. What counts most in life is what we do for others.

Tartans & Weeds

Men's and Women's

**Quality Imported
and
Domestic Clothing**

5 Front St.
Coupeville

678-6244



Koetje Agency INC.

SERVING WHIDBEY ISLAND
SINCE 1938

REAL ESTATE • INSURANCE

675-5915

1547 Midway
1213 W. Pioneer
Oak Harbor

