

# Spindrift Two

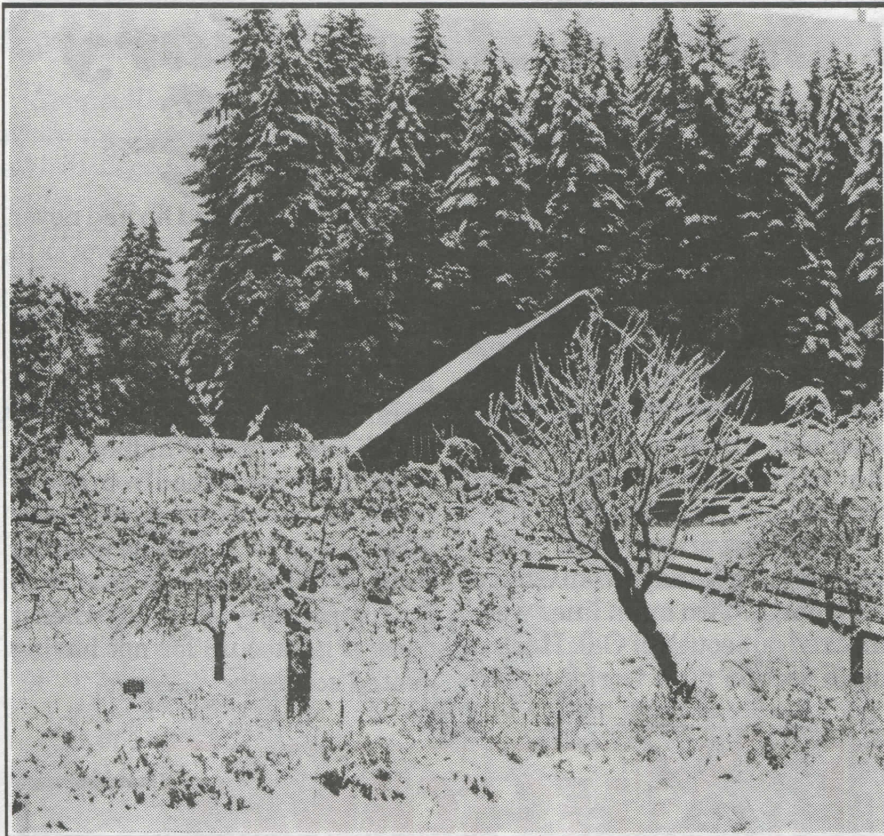
Winter 1994

Volume 17  
Number 2

\$1.00







*A Freeland winter scene*

## Pioneer Antiques

*Antique Furniture  
and Collectibles*

**Buy & Sell**  
**Open 7 days a week**  
**1092 W. Pioneer Way • 679-5154**  
*Anita W. Anderson*





## KOETJE AGENCY, INC.

### INSURANCE

**675-5915**  
1547 Midway Blvd., Oak Harbor

## Freeland . . . 93 years old

*The town of Freeland*, on Whidbey Island at the head of Holmes Harbor began in 1900 when a band of Socialists, an offshoot of the Equality Colony in Skagit County arrived to build their own Utopian community. Under the Free Land Association of Seattle, each member of the group was to have a five acre plot to build a home and farm for a \$10 down payment and the rest from cooperative enterprises.

Freeland began with its own newspaper, *Whidbey Islander*, which lasted for nearly three years in its attempt to gain support for the Socialists. For the next ten years the Freeland enterprise struggled. Other than Socialists were attracted to the settlement to build homes and businesses, and the two factions at times led to open animosity.

The Spencer family established the Harbor Cash Store as well as a machine shop, dock, sawmill and log-peeling factory. Members of the family operated the post office. Women in the family as well as women from other families organized themselves in charitable and cultural societies and soon became known as "The First Thursday Club, which included book reviews and study classes.

The Spencer store and post office, a small wooden building with a false front and front porch, was the center of activity in early Freeland. It stood next to the Spencer home, a wooden two story building that in later days has become a bed and breakfast. The Socialist movement on Whidbey Island died out, and today's Freeland is a modern highway town overlooking beautiful Holmes Harbor. \*



# Coupeville reports on the OH of 1907

*From the Nov. 8, 1907 Island County Times.* The 20th century was begun, and Coupeville, the county seat and largest and most progressive town on Whidbey Island, was in between the "boom days" of the early nineties, and World War I, when Fort Casey would supply a large part of the economy.

The Times editor visited Oak Harbor to Coupeville's north, and reported. He did not know then that his report would be prophetic.

"The Oak Harbor people have good cause to be proud of their town and businessmen. The place is beautifully located . . . splendid class of citizens . . . it bids fair at no distant day, to become the largest town in Island County."

The Modern Woodmen with a membership of 60 were constructing a 34 foot by 90 foot hall, two stories, with a stage in the lower hall, lodge and banquet hall.

Other home construction included that of Commissioner Zylstra, Paul Maylor, Charles Nienhuis and John Bos. Two churches were adding to their buildings, and there were several handsome homes in the town.

There were four outstanding stores, L.P. Byrne's with groceries, dry goods, boots, shoes, dishes, hardware, drugs and kitchenware; Maylor Bros., who owned the wharf and post office along with their general store; the Oak Harbor Mercantile, another general merchandise store; and Harvey Hill's grocery, which also carried candy, drugs, glassware, etc.

W.F. Smith had a confectionery with a barber shop and billiard hall "that would do credit to a town of 5,000." Smith also had a meat market, and was referred to as "one of Oak Harbor's leading businessmen."



*Looking west along Oak Harbor's muddy main street in the early years of the century. Vera Neil is at right, tugging on a recalcitrant horse. Oak Harbor's first high school classes were held in the two-story building at far left.*

## Tartans & Tweeds

**Whidbey Island's Only Celtic Shop**

Featuring

- Ballantyne Sweaters • Jimmy Hourihan Fashions •
- Tartan items, Fragrances • Celtic Jewelry & Momentos •

Open Daily

#4 Front Street, Coupeville, WA 98239 Tel.: (206) 678-6244

## Christopher's

*Creative Contemporary Cuisine*

**Each meal individually prepared by**

**Chef Christopher Panek**

*We Feature Northwest Wines & Beers*

Open Wednesday-Sunday

Reservations Suggested

Lunch 11:30-2:00

Dinner 5:00 - Last seating at 9:00

Front Street

Coupeville, Washington

678-5480



## More news of the 1890s

In 1891 the Island County Times reported that the "Prince of Wales" the eldest son of the "Duke of York," Chief of the Clallam Indians, and Princess Bessie Jackson of the royal house of Clallam, were married at Port Townsend. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Myron Eels of the Skokomish Reservation. The Prince brought a fine lot of fish from Scow Bay and sold them at a good price, and was very happy over both the wedding and the fish sales. "Hyas close" he said, which meant "Very good." "Queen Victoria," the mother of the bridegroom could not be present at the wedding. She was busy digging clams.

The 1891 year found the Chinese immigrants in the Northwest being forced out, and in their desperation they sold potatoes house to house in Seattle to raise money to live on. Mah Ten, one of the Chinese leaders who lived near the Hancock place on Ebey's Prairie fired a dozen shots as Tom O'Leary drove by his house. Mah Ten later admitted the firing but

explained that someone had thrown rocks through his windows. O'Leary came by and in the heated altercation that followed O'Leary slapped Mah Ten's face and one of the balers present held the Chinaman to restrain him as 17 Chinese rushed out of the house with rifles. The fracas stopped at this point and the Times pointed out that if it hadn't there would have been murder!

"The Stump," a roadhouse-hotel on the spit at Little Chicago next to Fort Casey closed its doors for good after a sentry from the Fort was placed near the wharf with orders that no soldiers were to cross the reservation line. The Stump gained a bad reputation after the shooting of one John Dollar, and they found it was not possible to make it pay. This event heralded the deterioration of what at one time was considered the start of a new town, "Little Chicago."

Raising potatoes was popular in the 1880s and '90s and a starch factory at San de Fuca was



proposed, with a capital stock of \$100,000 to locate within 90 days, said the April 10, 1891 Times.

**Coupeville's** Puget Sound Academy located on Whidbey in 1887 with three teachers and the Rev. George Lindsey as Principal. Lindsey also pastored the newly organized Congregational church. Then the Rev. Charles Newberry was called to the Academy. The Congregational church offered to raise an endowment of \$10,000 if the local people would donate the land and building. Mrs. Thomas Coupe donated 20 acres and J. E. Ebey 10 acres.

**City of Anacortes**, on Fidalgo Island, in 1890 had 47 saloons. Protestants and Catholics, aware of the spiritual needs of the new community, shared Bowman until the Presbyterian church took over a beer hall that had a canvas roof. The beer hall moved to a more prestigious building while the Presbyterians took over the tent and conducted services until a more suitable structure could be obtained.

Christian forces warred resolutely on saloons, bordellos and individuals of moral turpitude. With the beachhead established, churches proliferated and assumed permanent position and influence in the rapidly growing community. \*



### Coupeville's Old Town Shop

2 Front Street

Now available:  
Nautical  
Christmas  
Cards

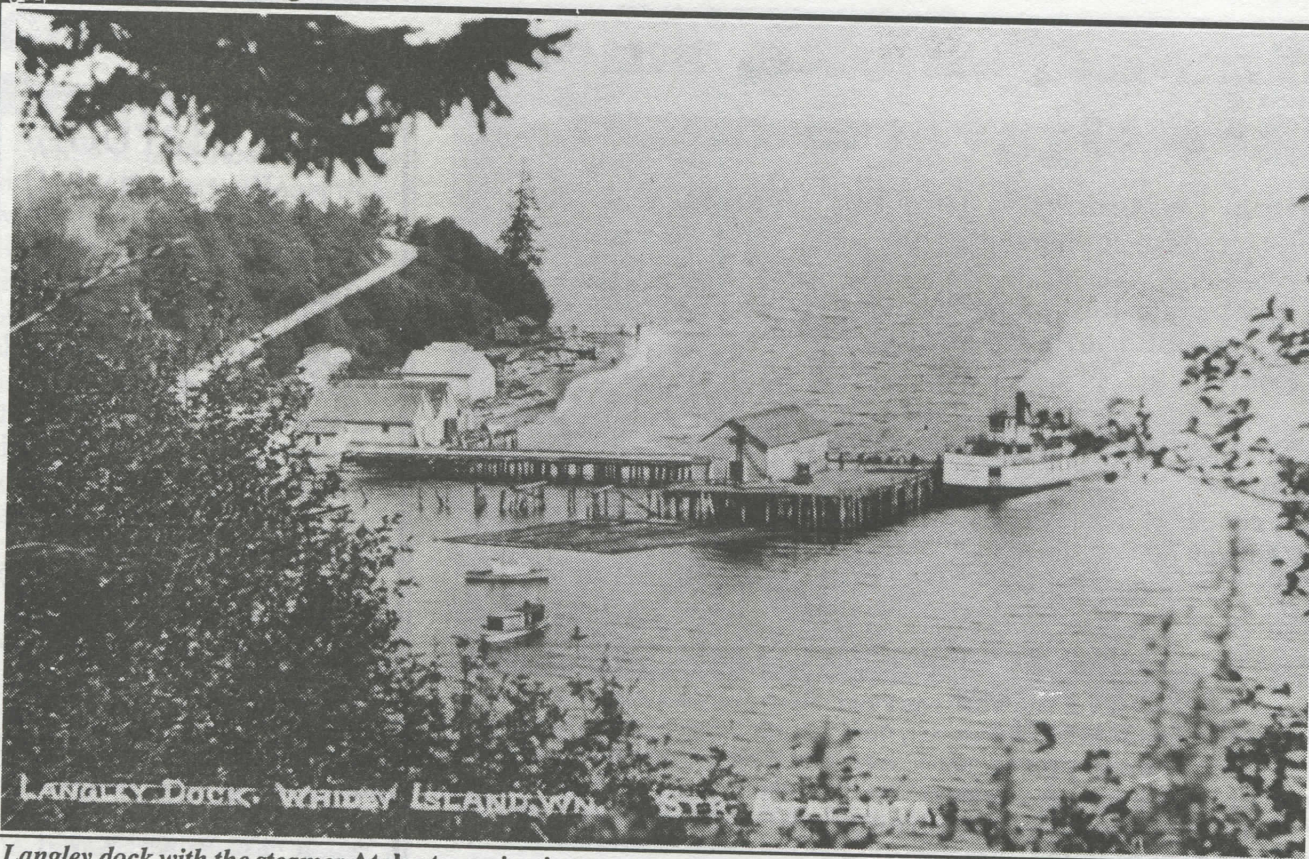
Unique Gifts  
Nautical Cards  
Country Gifts  
Original Art

Closed Mondays

Judy King







*Langley dock with the steamer Atalanta nosing in.*

***A great gift, anytime!***

**A History of Whidbey's Island**  
as told in story and photo by  
**Dorothy Neil and Lee Brainard.**

**"By Canoe and Sailing  
Ship They Came"**

Available in book stores, or send check for \$22.00, which includes tax,  
postage and handling, to Spindrift Publishing Co., PO Box 1308,  
Oak Harbor WA 98277

A publication of Spindrift Publishing Company, Inc.



# Langley was young man's dream

**Jacob Anthes** "Father of Langley" was only 15 when he arrived in a forest wilderness on South Whidbey in 1880. The young German lad was hired to "hold down" a homestead for a man by the name of Pat Quinn whom he met in Seattle, and when he arrived he found the homestead was dominated by a shack 10 feet by 12 with a leaky roof! He lived there only a short time but found work clearing a cattle trail to Sandy Point. He explored the south end of Whidbey and met most of the early settlers, and considered the Island a "paradise." He stayed.

Young Anthes was too young to file for a homestead and instead purchased 120 acres in 1881 from John Phinney for \$100. The land was about one half mile west of present day Langley. When he was 21 he filed a homestead of 160 acres adjoining the town of Langley as well as a timber claim which earned him enough money logging to pay for it.

In 1889, the year of Washington Statehood, the Great Northern Railway was building to the West Coast, and the laying out of townsites became important. Anthes himself could not finance such a project but he succeeded in convincing Judge J. W. Langley of Seattle to form the Langley Land

and Improvement Co.

When it was completed it was named for Judge Langley. A dock, hotel and several small cottages were built, along with Anthes own home in which he and his wife Leafy and their four children lived for 18 years. In 1891 Anthes built the first store in Langley and established a post office to become the first postmaster in the new South Whidbey town.

Names of settlers appearing after 1905 included Hunziker, McLeod, Howard, Furman, McGinnis, Anderson, Coe, Strawbridge, Catron, Bainter, Funk, Simon, Jensen, Melsen and later, Primavera and Clyde.

Accounts of early day Langley note that maple trees lined First and Anthes streets, and the Sternwheeler *Fairhaven* served the town, traveling from Everett to Camano and La Conner, coming back by way of Oak Harbor and Coupeville every other day.



Anthes had a prune orchard and kiln to dry the fruit. The Indians helped pick the prunes, with the rejects going into barrels to be made into potent prunejack which in turn was sold to the Indians. In the late 1880s there was only one store and post office, owned by Anthes, located in the Clyde building area of today.

So the little town of Langley was born, center for settlers who were loggers, fishermen, small business owners and entrepreneurs. Many of the "first families" of South Whidbey work where their grandparents built their first habitats and cut trees for a living. \*

## Telecommunications

### America's New Voice in Calling

**New DEBIT calling card SAVES 50%**  
on Long Distance Costs! Satisfaction Guaranteed!

*Master Accounts & Business Accounts available*

For information call (206) 675-3801  
or write to AmeriVox, 3117-300th Ave. E.  
Oak Harbor, WA 98277



## AmeriVox

America's New Voice in Calling

### Donna's Beauty Boutique

1038 Midway Blvd.  
679-3024

Tuesday & Wednesday Haircuts \$5  
Senior Perms \$23  
Regular Perms \$25 to  
\$45 for long hair

Men, Women & Children's Styling  
• Sculptured Nails • Evenings by  
Appointment • Open Tues-Sat, 9-5