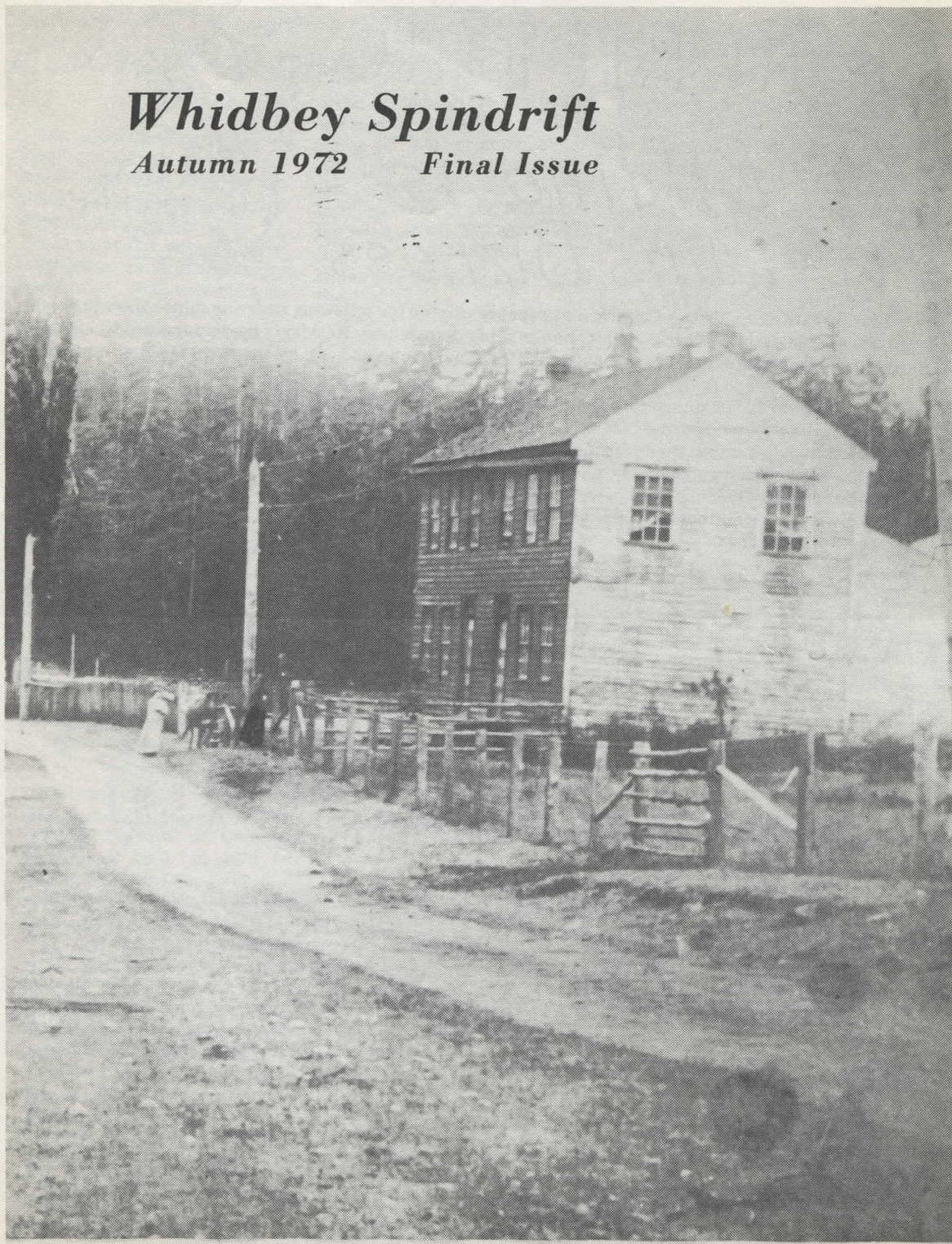


# *Whidbey Spindrift*

*Autumn 1972*

*Final Issue*





# Historic Landmark "on the Block"

The cover picture is one of Whidbey Island's oldest landmarks, and what may be the oldest public building in the state of Washington.

It is what has been referred to for years as "the old county courthouse" and was built in 1855 by Thomas Cranney and Lawrence Grennan. Cranney was a very active businessman and held many county offices until his death in 1907.

This building was the first post office in Island County, and Cranney was the first postmaster. The building also contained a store until 1858 and Cranney was simultaneously storekeeper, postmaster, county Auditor, and rented space to the county for a courthouse. When the partners established the Utsalady Mill on Camano Island, they suspended the store activities, selling the Coveland property in 1859.

Following the death of Grennan in 1869, Cranney operated the mill on Camano alone until 1876. In 1879 he moved back to Coupeville and spent most of the rest of his life in elective office.

In 1871 the county offices were again in the old building, having moved back from Coupeville. Later, a new wooden frame courthouse was built in Coupeville, and the Coveland building became home to a succession of families.

When the first Hollanders arrived on Whidbey, the Bultman family lived there for some time before they found acreage and a new home. 3



The timbers in the old house are sound, and under the new siding is the original cedar siding. New windows have been cut in both ends and in the front, and one of the two doors has been closed. But essentially it is the "old courthouse" in which District court was held in the 1850's.

Now it is for sale, and the Island County Historical Society is concerned that the structure will be destroyed or used for a commercial en-

terprise by an owner who could trade on its historical value.

A committee has been set up with Ted Zylstra of Oak Harbor as chairman and ways and means to save the structure for future generations are being studied within a three-month option period.

In the event the building is purchased for the Historical Society, Federal funds are available for its restoration to its original state of 117 years ago.



## WINDANTIDE

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Oak Harbor, Wash.

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## Beverly's Ceramics

Goldie Road,  
north of Oak Harbor,  
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*Greenware Gifts*

Store hours for the ceramic shop will be Monday thru Thursday, noon-5 p.m. as well as Monday and Thursday evenings 7-9:30.

## Finest Nutritional Products



Downtown Oak Harbor next to City Center Pharmacy

# The Health Food Store



# ISLAND

# HISTORY

Nineteen seventeen . . . there was a war going on, and times were hard. In Clover Valley a small schoolhouse held two roomsful of students, children of area farmers, and their teacher was a Mrs. Grace Phelps Miller, 27, who lived with another teacher at the John Powers home.

This past summer, Mrs. Miller, now a sprightly and perennially young 82, came with her sister to visit again the area where she taught in 1917.

She stayed at the Crossroads Motel, owned by John and Kay Brady, which proved a providential happening, since the Bradys could "fill her in" on the old families, where they were. All her students of 1917 are grandparents, some have moved away from Whidbey, but the names of Beeksmas, Zylstra, Niewenhuize, Kingma, Nienhuis, Heller and Koetje came easily to her remembrance.

The sharpest memories of Clover Valley were the Dutch mothers who asked her to dinner in their homes, and showed her the things they had brought from Holland, dishes and clothing.

"All the family stood around the table and asked a blessing before they sat to eat," she said.

The schoolhouse was a two-roomer, and in her room were about 40 children from grades five through eight. It was her first rural school, and she loved it.



The first day of school dawned, and when it came time for classes to begin, a little girl came and told her she, the teacher, had to ring the bell. Where she had taught before, the janitor was the bell-ringer. She walked about a mile from where she lived at the Power home, to the Clover Valley School.

The school had no fence about it, and neighboring cattle strayed into the yard, getting into the way of the ball players. A fence was needed, and parents offered to build it if she could raise the money for the material.

So the school held a "Play Party" and the whole community came. They played square dance "games" and served refreshments, and they raised enough money to buy posts and fencing.

"The children were well-behaved, happy and attractive. One father told me if his son didn't behave, to whip him. I never had to have any of them whipped."

NEXT PAGE



*Harvest Highest Interest*

OAK HARBOR · CLINTON · SEDRO WOOLLEY

OPENING SOON IN ANACORTES

**ISLAND SAVINGS** & Loan Association



# Teacher Returns ~

see PICTURE PAGE 22

After 55 years, Mrs. Miller remembered one anecdote from a spelling and definition lesson. Celia, with long curls, stood up to give a sentence with another word for "stir."

"Please agitate the mush," she said.

Mrs. Miller recalled she was very lucky to live at the Power home. Mrs. Sleeper did the cooking, and Power furnished the best in board. He had been badly burned in the explosion of a gas lantern, and Dr. Persons of Oak Harbor had become a

good friend. When the two teachers arrived, Dr. Persons asked John Power to take them into his new house, and as a favor to the doctor, he did. Mrs. Miller said each room upstairs had running hot water.

"I have dreamed of coming back to Whidbey Island for many years," she said. This summer she and her sister Helen, 80, drove out for a two month vacation trip west. They make their home at 845 Detroit St., Denver Colo., 80206.



## Spiced Cider

Heat sweet cider with a small amount of sugar, salt, stick cinnamon, whole cloves, and allspice. Cool. Then remove the spices and reheat the cider to serve hot.

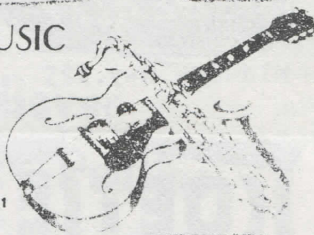
Martha Washington, according to the records, served spiced cider at Mt. Vernon. It was also made at Monticello, Jefferson's home, and kept there in the wine cellar.

## WHIDBEY MUSIC CENTER

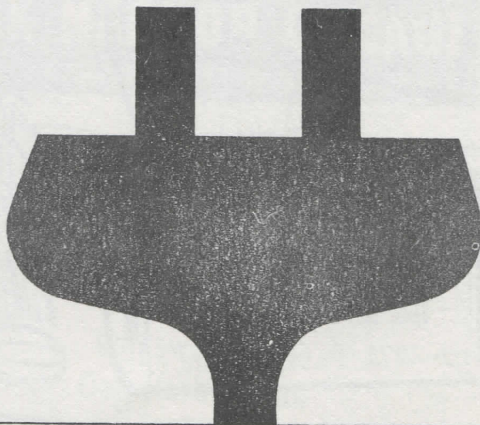
1064 WEST

PIONEER WAY

TELEPHONE 675-1211



## THIS IS A PLUG FOR PUGET POWER

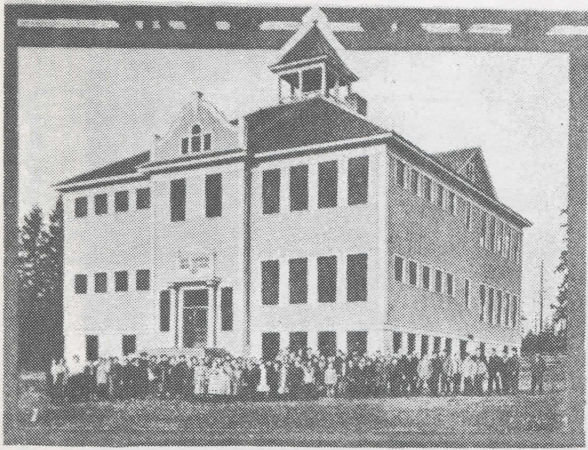


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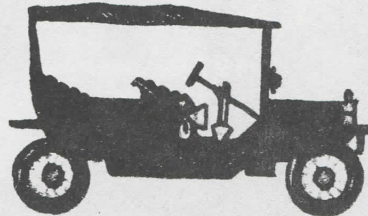




## OAK HARBOR FREIGHT LINES

NATIONWIDE MOVERS

675-2275



1911 Model T Ford

*Oak Harbor High School  
Built 1911*

### Editor Speaks

In 1910 the editor of the Island County Times, W. T. Howard, took it upon himself to write concerning the proper way for a boy to comb his hair.

"Now you take that sissy boy who parts his hair in the middle instead of on the side — as a boy should — don't you think it makes his facial expression weak and insipid? It certainly does in nine cases out of ten, and the boy who wants a real manly look comes nearer to attaining that wish by a side part."

### HOME BREW

Chase wild bullfrogs for three miles, gather up hops. Add ten gallons tan bark,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pt. shellac, one bar homemade soap. Boil 36 hours. Add one grasshopper to each pint to give it a kick. Pour a little into the kitchen sink; if it takes the enamel off, it's ready to bottle.

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ISLAND

675-2218

Volkswagen of  
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EARLY DAYS - CLOVER VALLEY SCHOOL

- PICTURE FROM  
Elsie Baldu

GIFTS - FOLKART - Gourmet items - Etc.

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"LIFE is no brief candle to me; it is a splendid torch which I  
have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as  
brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations."

—GEORGE BERNARD SHAW



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