

## **Judge Still built Whid Isle Inn for fun**

The Whid Isle Inn (now the Captain Whidbey Inn) was built in 1907 by Judge Still as a vacation spot. The log inn was much as we see it now . . . the rooms upstairs updated a bit, the chinking between the logs has been strengthened and the upstairs gallery is gone.

Downstairs are the original massive fireplaces . . . one of beach stone, the other of brick, with a common chimney. The downstairs was originally one room used for recreation, with a large staircase leading upstairs from the eastern end. Later owners partitioned it into the lounge, dining room, kitchen and morning room.

The inn has served at one time or another as general store, post office and for awhile a girl's school; but has always returned to the original use for which Judge Still had it built.

In the early days of the century, Captain H. H. MacDonald of the Skagit River Navigation



*Judge Still poses in his law office in this old photo.*

Company, skipper and owner of the steamers *Gleaner*, *Harvester* and *Skagit Belle* often docked there. Captain MacDonald would bring his family and their guests to picnic and camp during the summer months. These occasions were enlivened with clambakes, minstrel shows, pony cart and horseback riding, as well as other diversions.

A driftwood zoo under the tall firs was collected by Ray and Evelyn Sherrill who reopened the

Inn to the public in 1945 and did much to restore the Inn to its present condition.

Still later owners, John and Rachel Colby, discovered the Inn when they visited the Seattle Century 21 Expo in September 1962. They moved from the beautiful island of St. Croix in the U. S. Virgin Islands where they had lived for many years, to the equally beautiful but very different Whidbey Island.

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Still's Park Resort: In 1910, Seattle's Hotel Washington leased Judge Still's park for 5 years and built what would become a hotel restaurant known as the Whid-Isle Inn, now called the Captain Whidbey. A short wharf into the waters near the inn, across from San de Fuca, brought tourist boats from Seattle for weekends. Here it is under renovation.

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