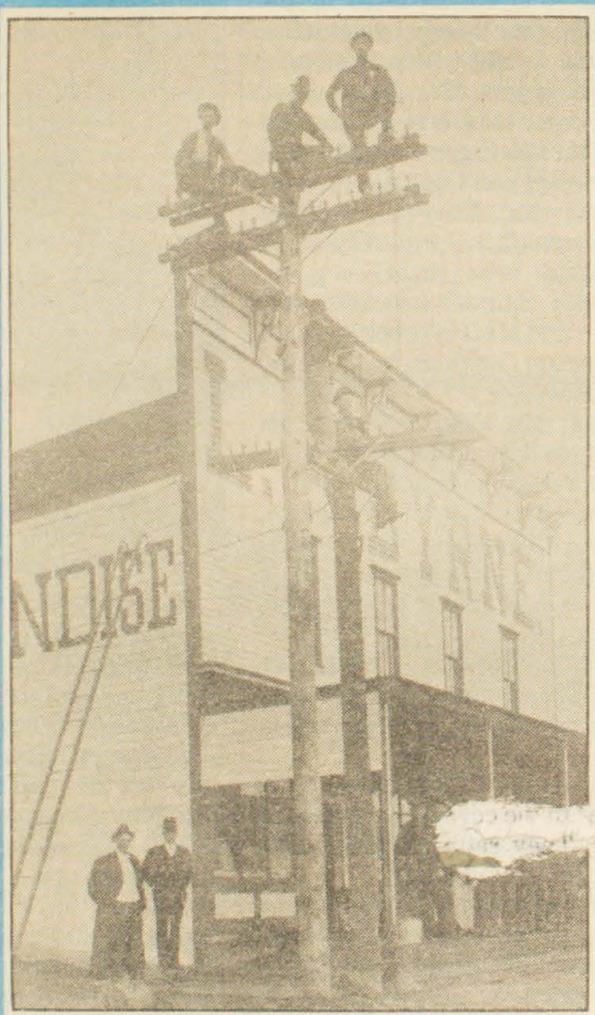


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100 YEARS



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Ebay journal • Vintage photographs • Historic
Reserve • Playwright Sundberg • Mickey Clark's
Ft. Casey • Dutch 'roots' • School children
celebrate • History of Oak Harbor • Lots more!

A Special Whidbey Press Publication



Ebey Journal Offers Glimpse Of Early Life On Central Whidbey

From the time of his arrival on Whidbey Island until his death, Col. Isaac Ebey was involved in some form of public service.

In the draft comprehensive plan for Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, published in May 1980, an article was written regarding the Ebey's accomplishments, which earned him a place of honor among this state's early leaders.

Following this thumbnail sketch of the man's accomplishments are excerpts from a journal kept by Ebey and his wife, Rebecca.

He became prosecuting attorney for his district in 1851, and was elected delegate to the Oregon Territorial Legislature. He encouraged that body to approve the Monticello Memorial, which called for the separation of the counties north of the Columbia from Oregon, thus leading to Washington's being granted territorial status in 1853.

Ebey also served as collector of customs for the Puget Sound district. Further, he is given credit for naming the state's capital, Olympia. A capable leader during

Washington Territory's infancy, his contributions are somewhat overshadowed by the recounting of the details of his dramatic death. He was shot and beheaded on August 11, 1857, by a raiding party of Haida Indians from British Columbia.

Ebey's death reflects a condition during this period of early settlement which the island's pioneers feared. Ebey had been killed in retaliation for a Haida chief killed in a skirmish at Port Gamble the previous year. These Indians from the Queen Charlotte Islands continued their raids on Whidbey

Island and other Puget Sound settlements. On Whidbey, the settlers built blockhouses for their protection against these northern marauders. These raids, however, did very little to affect the settlers' determination to remain, and the island's farmers pursued their goals of developing an agricultural community.

The following are excerpts from a diary kept by Col. Isaac U. Ebey and his wife, Rebecca, in 1852 and 1853, as reproduced in the news columns of the Island County Sun in the spring of 1891 (Editor's note: Rebecca Ebey refers to her husband as 'Mr. Ebey.').

July 7, 1852: This evening at bedtime Mr. Ebey arrived from Olympia accompanied by Mr. Bailey. They were almost exhausted, having walked a great distance leaving their canoe and Indian on the account of high winds. Was glad to see Mr. Ebey, but he is obliged to hurry off to Salem in a few days.

Sunday, July 11, 1852: This morning Mr. Ebey, myself and the children went with J. Crockett and his lady to Col. Crockett's for the first time since they moved to their own claim. We had a pleasant visit and saw a good deal of pretty country.

July 13, 1852: Mr. Ebey started this morning for Olympia and is going from their to Salem (Oregon) to a called term of the legislature. Will be gone nearly two months.

Sunday, August 1, 1852: This evening I received a letter from Mr. Ebey dated Portland, July 21. It was brought to Port Townsend by Mr. Pettigrove, and from there by Mr. Bounsel and Capt. Scott.

August 11, 1852: Mr. Ebey arrived this morning before breakfast. I was very much rejoiced to see him.

August 12, 1852: Samuel Crockett, Mr. Smith, Mr. Howe and Mr. Holbrook were all here in the forenoon, anxious to hear the news from Mr. Ebey.

August 14, 1852: Mr. Ebey is getting his claim surveyed to-day. Capt. Bell, John Bartlett and John Alexander are helping.

August 21, 1852: This day, one year ago, we left Fort Hall (located in what is now southeastern Idaho) and camped on a beautiful creek a half day's journey this side.

August 31, 1852: (By Col. Ebey) Two Catholic priests came here this evening. They are looking for a location for a mission.

September 2, 1852: (Col. Ebey) The priests went over to the cove this morning to see the natives. They returned after dark having baptized several children.

September 14, 1852: Henry Wilson and another gentleman came from Olympia. They brought several numbers of the Olympia newspaper which is just commenced. The first paper published on Puget's Sound. It is called "The Columbian."

November 11, 1852: Captain Coupe here to-day. Mr. Ebey and Mr. Marlet very busy working at the new house, trying to get it completed.

November 19, 1852: Mr. Ebey finished our house to-day and we moved in. It is very comfortable.

November 21: Mr. Alexander, John Crockett and Dr. Lounsedale came over to spend the day with Mr. Ebey before he leaves for the Willamette. Captain Coupe took supper and staid till bedtime.

November 23, 1852: Mr. Ebey started for Salem to-day. He has to be gone about three months. He hired Indian John to stay until he come back to build fires and get wood, and Mr. Engle stays here every night.

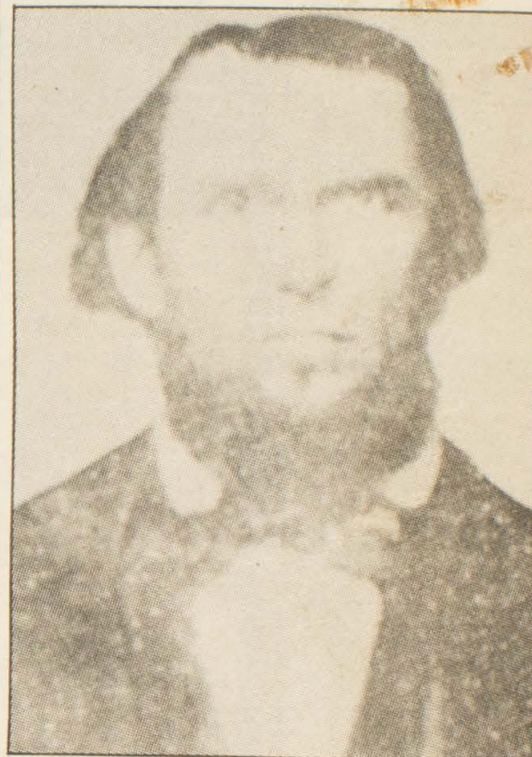
November 29, 1852: John Indian has slipped off to the cove and did not come back until after light. I think he has a notion of leav-

ing. He is very idle. John Alexander hauled us one load of wood to-day.

December 1, 1852: John left us to-day for good, and was half-way to Port Townsend before I knew he was gone. The men over there sent him word that he could get a dollar a day loading vessels, and I suppose that induced him to go.

Sunday, December 19, 1852: The Skagits have sent over to Port Townsend for all the Clallams to come over and mourn the loss of Snakalum, their head chief. They all seem to take it very hard. He died with the quincy or sore throat. The Clallams have just left here for the cove. All the tyees had to come in and warm, but I would not let any others in. One by the name of Queer handed me a bundle of letters he had brought from Olympia. Among them was a letter from Mr. Ebey dated Oregon City, December 5.

December 25, 1852: This is Christmas day. Dr. Lounsedale and Mr. Alexander were here to-day and brought me a jar of pickles and a box of mince meat for a Christmas present.



Col. Isaac Ebey

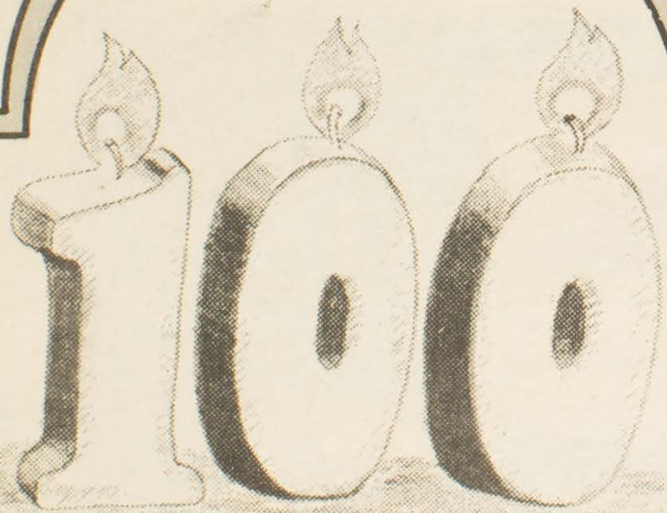
January 9, 1853: An Indian brought me a letter from Mr. Ebey's sister at Port Townsend to-day. It brought the truth of the death of my mother on the plains.

February 1, 1853: Capt. Fowler is to-day anchored in Penn's cove. From him we received the mail from Olympia. I received two letters from Mr. Ebey which state that he will be home before long. The last Olympia papers give the proceedings of the legislature. Mr. Ebey had had four counties organized and their county seats stationed, for which, among other, he is extolled very highly by his friends. Our county is called Island and the county seat is Coveland. The name is very appropriate and I am truly glad we have a county of our own. Those who have went to the southern mines this winter have suffered a great deal for want of provisions and lost all their cattle by the cold weather. I fear my brothers have gone there, as I can hear nothing of them. Snow at Salem was two or three feet deep. I think we were greatly blessed not to have more than two inches.

February 2, 1853: Sam Indian wants to go to Capt. Fowler to-day. I understood the Captain bought him some time ago.

February 4, 1853: Sam came to-day for his pay. I had to give him a blanket, but he did not deserve anything more than what I had given him, which was a good old coat, hat, boots and two good old shirts. They are all a great deal of trouble, and I hope the time will come when we can do without them.

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 3)



Washington's 100th

A Publication of Whidbey Press, Inc.

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Ebey Journal Offers Glimpse Of Pioneer Life . . .

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

February 17, 1853: Six large Indians came to-day and crowded in the door so that I could not stand them. I tried to get them out and shut the door, but they stood still and sauced me until I was afraid of them. When they found I would say no more they started off.

February 18, 1853: Three (Indian) lads came to-day just to pester me because they knew Mr. Ebey was not at home. They stood around the door and when the children would have to go out they would fight them and sauced me. One who had a rifle pointed it at me for some minutes, and then I ran in the house. Directly two of them came in the house with the rifle, but I made them take it out and started Eason after Mr. Hill, when they both left on a run.

February 19, 1853: Mr. Ebey arrived home to-day from Salem. We had a letter from brother John. He was at the falls of the Columbia and expected to come soon.

February 21, 1853: Mr. Ebey was over to the cove to-day and Mr. Fox, Mr. Ivans and Mr. Miller came home with him. They have chartered the Cabot to take to the Columbia after families who wish to reside on the island — perhaps 30 or 40 — which will be a great addition to our little settlement. We only number six families now and about 15 children. There are 18 bachelors and youths residing on the island, but we want more families. Coveland is beginning to improve.

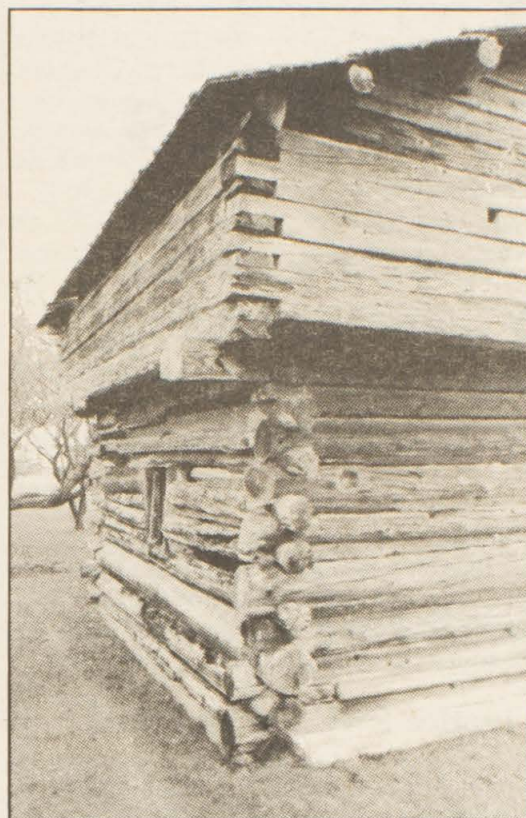
Vessels are loading in the cove with piles and square timber. There is one store and Mr. Fox is going to erect a grist and sawmill.

May 2, 1853: Thomas and John are plowing and planting potatoes and Mr. Ebey is making an axhelve. Ivans and Mr. Doyle are working on their claims.

Sunday, May 8, 1853: A gentleman from Bellingham Bay stayed here last night. He is one of the owners of the coal claim there. Two gentlemen from Duwamish have just arrived. One of them is Mr. Wiley, the first editor of the "Columbian," and the other is a lawyer by the name of McConeha who is a candidate for Congress from this northern Territory. He is a very self-conceited man in appearance.

May 11, 1853: We have just received news by the mail that our Territory has been organized and called Washington, and a gentleman from Massachusetts by the name of Stevens is appointed Governor. We are all very much rejoiced at the idea of having a Territory of our own north of the Columbia. It will go forward in improvements and settle up very fast in spite of Oregon Territory. The great rush from the States will hereafter be for Washington Territory and it will make one of the best States in the Union and has more advantages, besides its mild climate, than any State in the Union.

Sunday, May 22, 1853: Dr. Lansdale came over late this evening to see Mr. Ebey about holding an inquest over the body of old Mr.



Several blockhouses were built by Whidbey settlers during the Indian War of the early 1850s. This is the Davis Blockhouse, still standing at Sunnyside Cemetery outside Coupeville.

Church who was found dead on his claim at Oak Harbor. It is supposed he was killed by the Indians.

(Editor's note: The balance of this family diary is written by Col. Ebey.)

May 23, 1853: Went to-day to Oak Harbor and held an inquest over the body of Judah Church. Inquest of the jury that he came to his death by some cause unknown to them. His body was a good deal decayed. We buried his remains by throwing a mound of earth on the same, and returned home late in the evening.

May 26, 1853: Rebecca was delivered this morning at about 6 o'clock of a fine daughter. We concluded to call our little daughter Sarah Harriett. Captain Dryden called this evening from Olympia and brought me word of my appointment as Collector of the port of Puget Sound vice Simpson P. Morris removed.

October 8, 1853: Kind reader, the hand that penned the most of this volume is now cold with the icy chill of death. The loving heart from whence flowed the passages of affection in this volume is forever stilled. But the spirit that animated all I trust still lives, more pure and refined than when on earth. A spirit perfect, rejoicing around the throne of God and a Saviour forever, Rebecca W. Ebey departed this life on 29th day of September, A.D. 1853, at about 6 o'clock p.m., aged 30 years, 9 months, and one day, and in the ninth year, eleventh month, and 26th day of wedlock.

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Red-Bearded Sea Captain Befriended Natives

The following is an excerpt from the soon-to-be published history book, "By Canoe and Sailing Ship They Came," a 200-page book written by Dorothy Neil and edited by Lee Brainard.

The early Irish, the Maylors, McCrohans, O'Learys, Nunans and others, made friends with the Indians, even intermarrying. Captain Edward Barrington, a big, red-bearded sea captain, became the Indians' employer, judge, dury and protector. If we could walk the path along the shore that later became Oak Harbor town, we could see the hillside of Garry oaks that in the early 1850s extended to the water's edge. One building, a small trading post, sat on the bank above a salt water slough that ran along the shore. Captain Barrington, new to a new country, found that the trip to the village of Smithfield

(Olympia) was too arduous a journey to obtain these household needs, so he and his partner, Charlie Phillips, set up the trading post, stocking it with items Barrington brought on his ship and carried ashore at a low tide.

Justice Swift, If Not Sure

In those early days, on what is now West Pioneer Way, Captain Edward Barrington was regarded as judge and jury in many a fracas between native Indians and the white settlers. The Indians were a friendly bunch, and helpful to the settlers. They regarded them as their white brothers and insurance

against slave raids by the Haidah Indians from Vancouver Island. This story of early-day justice has been handed down by word of mouth through generations of pioneer descendants:

A big red-headed man, Captain Barrington was highly regarded by the Indians. They looked to him to administer justice, and his intervention saved many of them from violent deaths at the hands of the settlers. It was also said that many an Indian lived to regret the Captain's swift decisions.

Such a one was "Big Billy," an Indian who stood over 6-feet tall. Because of his unusually large size, Big Billy liked to throw his weight around. He happened to be around one day when Captain Barrington and another settler were butchering near the bank of the bay. Barrington asked Big Billy to "hand me that gam-stick." Big Billy replied that Captain Barrington had been boss long enough, now HE was boss! Barrington picked up the gam-stick, felled Big Billy with one blow, grabbed him by the hair and flung him over the bank. The settler thought Barrington had killed the Indian and said so. "That was the intention," replied Barrington as he resumed his butchering. Four days later, a somewhat less aggressive Big Billy appeared and approached the Captain. "You still boss," he said.

Show For Hostile Indians

Another story about Captain Barrington is told. One day when the Captain was busy building his trading post, a frightened Indian girl came to tell him that the Northern Indians were approaching for their usual orgy of killing and enslavement. Barrington was a man of quick decision. Following the girl to the village on the flats near the beach, his ingenious mind formed a scheme to foil the invaders, save the local Indians, and add a little color to the hard workaday life of an Oak Harbor pioneer.

He arrived at the campground just as the screaming Haidahs, painted and brandishing their weapons, landed. Barrington's size and flaming red hair and beard must have struck an uneasy note as he stood in front of the little tribe of terrified Skagits, and the Haidahs were momentarily stopped in their tracks. This is what he was counting on. To the consternation and horror of both the invaders and the invadees, Barrington cut the thongs that tied an ancient burial canoe to its posts. As it fell, the bones of the long-departed Skagit rolled out and the Captain fixed the skull on the end of a stick.

As if this desecration of the spirit world was not enough, the fear-rooted Haidahs saw what was to them the most terrifying ritual they had ever beheld. The red-bearded giant began a slow dance, dipping and bowing and holding the skull aloft, at intervals snapping at it! So transfixed were the raiders that they forgot their primary mission. Their spears hung by their sides, and no doubt their mouths hung open in paralyzing disbelief. With a great shout and rush Barrington was upon them, waving the skull in the air.

Chaos ensued. The warriors dashed in fright to their canoes, shouting "Memaloose! Memaloose! (evil spirit) and Sike! Sike! (devil). The would-be raiders set off as fast as their paddles could take them, leaving a stunned band of Skagits and a convulsed Irishman on the beach.

From that day on, it is said, no Northern Indian ever came into Oak Harbor Bay. It was generally accepted by both the Northern Indians and the local encampment that Barrington was indeed a "Sike."

because no one, according to their beliefs, but a devil could have entered the world of the dead as he had, to disturb the remains of their ancestors.

Spit As Burial Ground

Oak Harbor Indians later discarded the placing of their dead in canoes to be hung between poles or trees. They chose instead the "Crooked Spit," a long neck of sand that extended from the southwest end of Maylor's Point northward, and interred their dead along with their earthly valuables. At the beginning of World War II, the Navy bought Maylor's Point and the sandspit, and decided to cut 900 feet off the end of the Spit to enlarge the channel and build an auxiliary landing field between the Spit and the Point. The Navy notified the Indians at the LaConner (Swinomish) reservation that they could come and remove any remains they could find. This they did. Grandchildren of Samuel Maylor, who also came from Ireland and who, with his brother, settled the Point, remembered finding many Indian beads and trinkets washed from the sand on the Spit, and as late as the 1930s, Oak Harbor youngsters swimming the channel picked up the bright glass beads. The Navy later abandoned its plans for an auxiliary field but 900 feet of the Crooked Spit was forever gone.

Captain Barrington was the Indians' friend. He took one of their women for his wife, and she bore him a daughter, Olivia. (Later he married Christina McCrohan.) It was never ascertained that the frightened Indian girl who came to seek help for her tribe was the one who married Barrington. It would have added a bit of interest to the romance. But the incident cemented the friendship between the Skagits and "The Irish."



Captain Edward Barrington, 47, poses for a wedding portrait with his new bride, 19-year-old Christina McCrohan. (Photo courtesy of Peggy Townsdin)



Historian author Dorothy Neil works on her soon-to-be-published book.

For further armchair-exploring, there's Jimmie Jean Cook's book, "A Particular Friend, Penn's Cove," (see story) and a videotape on the reserve called "Whidbey Island: A Glimpse of the Northwest Past," available in local stores and from its producer Alan Bixby at Videocast Media Production in Freeland.



First graduating class of OHHS, 1914. Courtesy Orren Ward.

Local Men Featured Prominently In Development Of Pioneer Group

At least three Whidbey Island residents served in the past as presidents of the Pioneer Association of Washington State.

In 1888, the year before the territory became a state, Granville O. Haller served as president of the organization.

Haller was a colonel in the regular Army at Fort Vancouver in 1853 and was commander of forces in the Indian War of 1855-56.

He established the community of Port Townsend before ultimately retiring on Whidbey Island.

In 1904, Oak Harbor resident John M. Izett was elected Pioneer Association president. Izett, who was a foreman for Grennan and Cranney lumber mill at Utsalady in the mid-80s, opened logging camps on Whidbey and Camano islands. Later in life he was a shipbuilder, dairy farmer and a customs inspector on San Juan Island.

In 1909 Robert C. Hill was elected president. Hill, who arrived on Puget Sound in 1853, was a colonel in the Indian War. He farmed on Whidbey until becoming a banker in Port Townsend.

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Ebey's Reserve 'A Unique Partnership'

By Mary Kay Doody
Staff reporter

Perhaps no other place on Whidbey Island has aged as gracefully in the first 100 years of statehood as the area now known as Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. So gently has progress changed this "cultural landscape," as historians call it, this 22-square-mile Central Whidbey historical district was declared by Congress a decade ago as having national significance.

It's a great place to explore if you want to get a feeling for, as well as knowledge of, life on Whidbey Island in the years leading up to statehood.

Reading all the historical material that's available this Centennial Year from your armchair is one thing, but to really appreciate it, dress warmly and go to Ebey's Landing.

When you spy the white-curtained Ferry House up the ravine, it's not hard to imagine the sailing ships and Indian canoes unloading their cargo at this beach.

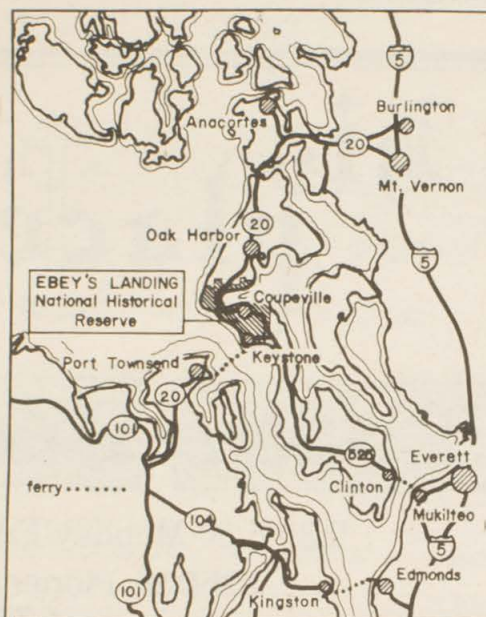
The Ferry House was built in 1860, and served as post office, cafe and inn for travelers to and from Port Townsend and beyond.

Walk up the hill to the spot where early settler Isaac Neff Ebey was beheaded by Indians from the north, and look across the

prairie to his father Jacob Ebey's sheep barn.

You can hike for miles along the beach in either direction, or take the bluff trail north for spectacular views. On the north side of the prairie a "ridge trail" across private property leads to the historic Sunnyside Cemetery in a mile. You'll pass Jacob Ebey's homestead on the way, blockhouse and all.

You can also drive to the cemetery, the final resting place for early settlers and site of another blockhouse. There are four



in the reserve — one on Wanamaker Road north of Crockett Lake and one in downtown Coupeville.

The reserve commemorates the first thorough exploration of Puget Sound by Capt. George Vancouver, settlement by Isaac Neff Ebey, who led the first white settlers to Whidbey Island, the early active years under the Donation Land Law of 1850-55, and the growth since 1883 of the historic town of Coupeville.

From the bluff trail, ridge trail and cemetery you can see hedgerows that still mark boundaries between Donation Land Claims.

The reserve protects "a rural community which provides an unbroken record from the nineteenth century exploration and settlement in Puget Sound to the present time," says the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 by which Congress created the nation's first national historical reserve.

It established a unique partnership between the National Park Service, state and local government which culminated last year in the transfer of the reserve's management to a local trust board.

That board, led by Vicki Brown of Coupeville, oversees conservation easements and land use applications of town and county as they may affect the reserve.

The conservation easements are the

legal instruments which guarantee that certain land won't be developed — except, in many cases, for agricultural use. The National Park Service has spent more than \$6 million for purchase of development rights through such conservation easements and in some cases scenic easements that preserve certain views of the historical landscape.

That amount includes \$500,000 for the outright purchase of Keystone Spit, another key feature of the reserve. The mile-long spit between Crockett Lake and Admiralty Inlet was transferred last year to the state parks system, and is now part of Fort Casey State Park.

For an interesting introduction to the history of the area, start at Coupeville's waterfront, where a new Island County Museum will be built as a Centennial Year project. Visit the old museum and the Ebey Reserve kiosk by the wharf, and pick up (in the museum or almost any store) the free brochure on Ebey's Landing published by the park service.

It has a map of the reserve and highlights of its history.

You can also obtain a map for a walking tour of Coupeville from most stores, or in Town Hall or the Central Whidbey Chamber of Commerce.

There are 49 historical buildings to see, including many Victorian houses built by sea captains.

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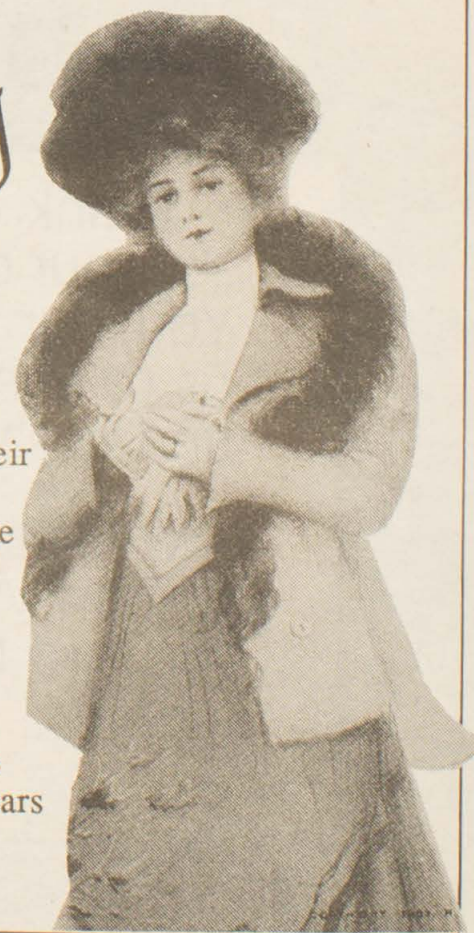
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Customers and patrons of the Oak Harbor Hotel and Store lined up for a posterity-picture taken in the 1890s. The entire "town" and wharf burned in a disastrous fire before 1920.



North Whidbey celebrates with a wheelbarrow race on Barrington Avenue, now West Pioneer. Circa 1910.

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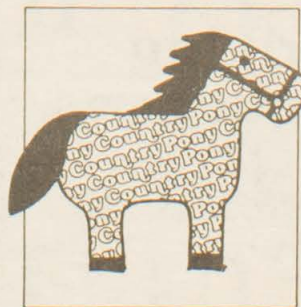
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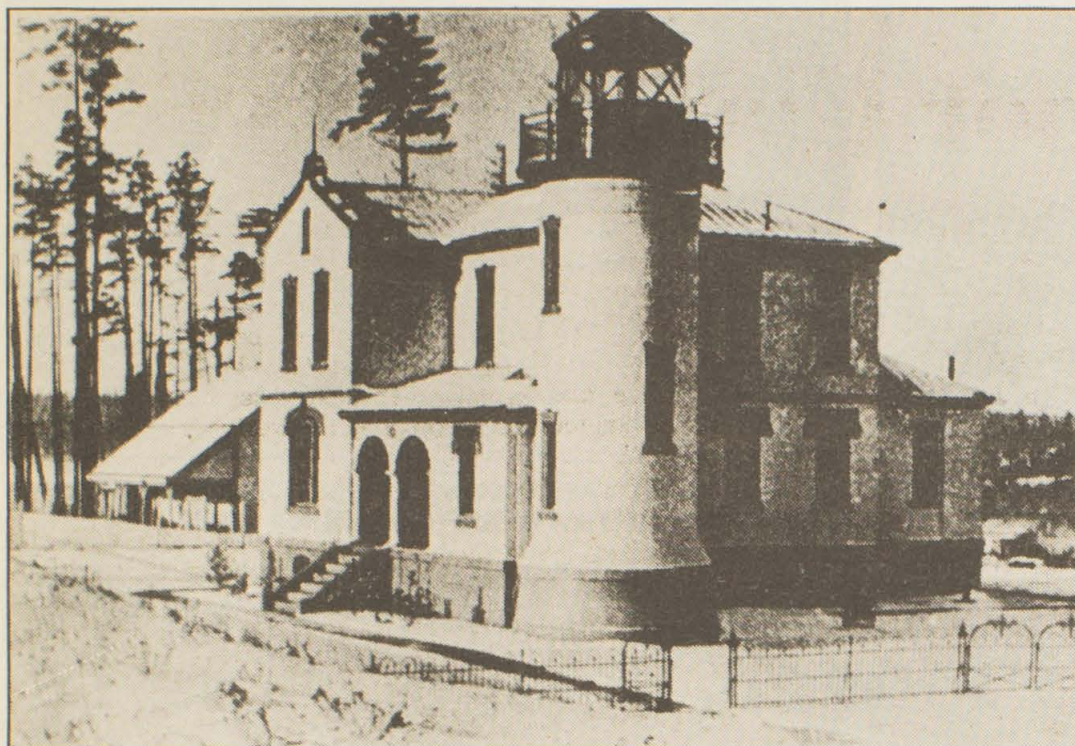
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One of the fast disappearing lighthouses in the U.S. the Admiralty Head lighthouse at Fort Casey on North Whidbey, is now part of a Washington State Park. It was built to replace the wooden structure built in the 1860s, and is constructed of brick with a cement covering.

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Whidbey Like New England?

"Want to See New England? See Whidby!"

That was the headline May 14, 1927 when Seattle Post-Intelligencer writer Warren Crane published a story about the island.

Crane, it turns out, was quoting Mrs. Richard Burton Hassel, who wrote an article for the "Washington Historian" about 1900.

Following Hassel's theme, Crane wrote:

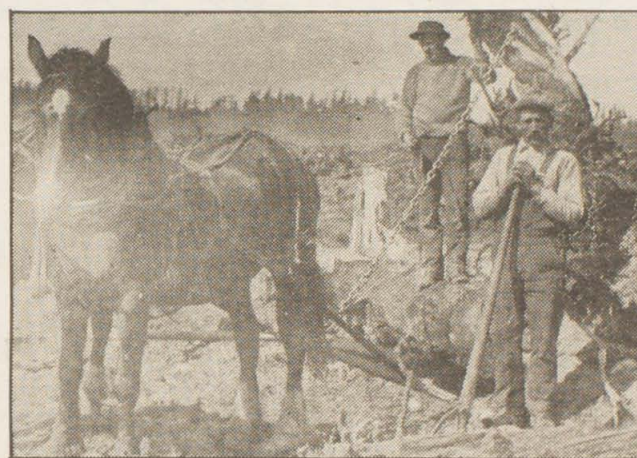
"Like New England, Whidby Island has had a very romantic past. One of its interesting places is Penn's Cove, where was the 'crossing' of the Red Men from the Olympics to the Snohomish and Skagit

Valley.

"In the early days Coupeville, now the county seat, became the trading center of the island. Issac N. Ebey, Dr. Lansdale and F. Puget Race were among the early settlers in the community, Race being the surviving pioneer.

"At Coupeville more than any other place is to be encountered the atmosphere of the past, recalling memories of when men fought to protect their families against the attack of Indians. On the leading main corner of the town a blockhouse erected by the pioneers in 1855 still stands just as it did many decades ago."

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Trio Staked Oak Harbor Claims In 1849

In February 1960 Alice Kellogg Cahail gave a collection of personal notes about several Whidbey Island pioneers to local historian Dorothy Neil.

Cahail was the granddaughter of pioneer Doctor John Coe Kellogg (see related story). Excerpts from that collection include the following:

Zachary Martin Taftezon was one of three men who settled in the Oak Harbor area in 1849. Others in the pioneer group were Ulrich Freund and C.W. Sumner.

Taftezon was born in Levanger, Norway in 1821. He became a seaman in 1847 and

traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana via England that year.

"Martin and a friend were attracted by news of the California gold rush," reads a short biographical piece by Cahail. "They set out together on horseback by way of the Sante Fe Trail for California. They met hostile Indians and were forced to separate.

"Taftezon went on alone, lost the Sante Fe Trail, picked up the Oregon Trail to Portland, then took the trail north to Fort Steilacoom, Washington Territory in 1849. There he made friends with Ulrich Freund and C.W. Sumner. The three took up ad-

joining claims where Oak Harbor now stands."

Taftezon, who lived in Oak Harbor 51 years, died August 13, 1901. He was initially buried next to Freund but his family subsequently moved his grave to Stanwood.

In 1938, when the Crown Prince and Princess of Norway visited Washington State, they attended services for the unveiling and dedication of the Taftezon Memorial in East Stanwood.

Ulrich Freund was born in Switzerland and served as an officer in the German Army.

After arriving in Oak Harbor he, Taftezon and C.W. Sumner took up claims of 320 acres each.

While Freund was serving in the Indian Uprising of 1855-56 local Indians burned his log cabin and took his stock. When he returned to make a new start he dyked his marshland on the west side of what is now Oak Harbor.

Around 1872 Freund sent for his nephew, Arnold and niece, Elsbeth. Arnold became a farmer and later worked for J.M. Izett. Elsbeth went to Port Townsend, where she married Captain Jonathan Adams.

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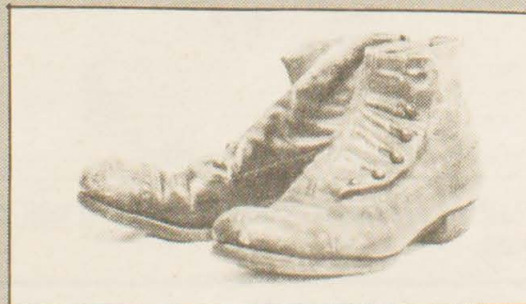
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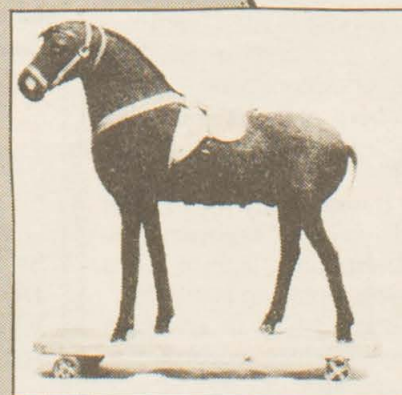
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Island County Pioneer Family Registry

Did your family arrive in Island County in the 1850's or are they the pioneers of 100 years from now? Register your family's arrival in Island County! Send or call for a form. 206-678-6854, P.O. Box 305, Coupeville, WA 98239. There is no charge for this service.



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Famous Murder Trial Inspires Playwright

By Keven Graves
Staff reporter

Take one "starvation specialist" accused of murder and extortion, add a flamboyant judge to preside over the case and what have you got? First of all, according to Trudy Sundberg of Oak Harbor, you have the ideal premise for a play. Secondly, you have a bit of local history.

Using as the basis of her story an actual murder trial held in 1911 before Island County Superior Court Judge Lester Still, Sundberg has penned a humorous play which is scheduled to be performed at the Whidbey Playhouse in June.

"It's a farce," she said. "It's based on a real historical event which, at the time, was scandalous."

Her play, titled "The Lethal Doctor, or Murder in the Fast Lane," is being produced in conjunction with the state's year-long centennial celebration.

"Other than giving birth to four children, it's the most creative thing I've ever done," mused Sundberg, a former Oak Harbor High School English teacher and University of Illinois instructor.

"The emphasis of my play is on fun and entertainment — and that's practically guaranteed with the spirited and talented cast we've assembled," she said.

Performing in the lead role as colorful Judge Still will be recently-retired Island County Superior Court Judge Howard A. Patrick, who has acted on stage before and

"It turns out he was a very unusual character," Sundberg said with obvious delight. "He was flamboyant, he liked the ladies, he loved to dance, he had limitless energy and he had a way with words."

"I always saw Judge Howard Patrick as Judge Still," Sundberg added.

In a part almost as tailor-made as Patrick's, Helen Chatfield-Weeks will play the role of accused murderess, Dr. Linda Lethall.

Sundberg said Week's character is based loosely on the story of Dr. Linda Burfield Hazard, the real defendant in the trial on which the play is based.

While the play centers around actual people in Whidbey Island history, Sundberg is careful to point out the way the characters speak, their motives and traits are all purely conjecture.

In fact, Sundberg said, many of the play's characters were developed keeping in mind the people she envisioned playing the parts.

Without revealing the plot of her play, Sundberg described some of the bizarre circumstances surrounding the real case using information gathered from old editions of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

Hazard, according to Sundberg, was a doctor who practiced in this area in the early part of this century. She was tried for extortion and first-degree murder in connection with the death of an English girl.

The girl apparently died while undergoing a "starvation diet" under Hazard's supervision at the doctor's sanitarium, which was located in Kitsap County.

The girl was paying \$60 per month to

Sundberg said she first became captivated with the Hazard case about 20 years ago when she was given an old scrapbook which included an article with the headline: "Judge excoriates starvation specialist charged with murder in the first degree."

"It intrigued me a great deal," Sundberg recalled. Although the newspaper article, much to her chagrin, was lost while she was out of the country, Sundberg said the story has remained alive in her mind.

Sundberg said she told the story for many years when giving guided historical tours of Whidbey Island. And while she was eager to put the tale on paper, she was unsure how she would do it.

A few years ago, however, a friend mentioned the upcoming state centennial and suggested writing the story as a play for the

event. That's when the whole idea came together, Sundberg said.

"I have been seriously writing it for about three years," she said.

Notes and ideas Sundberg had accumulated suddenly began taking the shape of a play as she pounded the keys of her home computer. Months of writing and rewriting honed the play into a fast-paced, light-hearted comedy.

"Once I had actors saying the parts it was so exciting," she said. "I think it's going to be very popular entertainment — I hope so."

"The Lethal Doctor, or Murder in the Fast Lane" is currently scheduled to be performed at the Whidbey Playhouse throughout next June.



Oak Harbor resident Trudy Sundberg will produce a history-based play this summer.



Superior Court Judge Lester Still

undeniably has a dramatic flair all his own. Having researched Still's life and talked with his niece Margaret Harris about him, Sundberg said she learned a great deal about the man.

undergo Hazard's starvation diet.

"She would have you fast," Sundberg said, supposedly to "cleanse the system." Hazard would then give patients "health massages" and later gradually bring the dieters out of their fast by feeding them nourishing broths.

During her trial, Hazard told the court she was taking the money she earned from her practice and putting it in a fund she had established, according to Sundberg.

In her play, Sundberg calls Dr. Lethall's fund the "Master Plan for Universal Sanity and Health (MUSH)."

"The underlying theme in my play is this obsession with food — which I find very contemporary," Sundberg said. "I think it's a very relevant theme people can relate to."

A jury found Hazard guilty in 1911 of a lesser charge of manslaughter, according to newspaper reports, and the doctor was sent to prison.

Ironically, according to the newspaper, Hazard's medical practice actually increased while she was on trial for murder.

The play is divided into two acts. The scene of the first act is the Whid-Isle Inn, built by Judge Still in the early 1900s.

Still's rugged log structure is still standing today on the shores of Penn Cove. It is currently called the Captain Whidbey.

The second act of Sundberg's play centers around the murder trial and is set in Still's courtroom in the Island County Courthouse.

'Murder In Fast Lane' Boasts Star-Studded Cast

The following is a list of cast and crew of Trudy Sundberg's play, "The Lethal Doctor, or Murder in the Fast Lane," which is being produced in conjunction with the Washington State Centennial.

Cast

- Island County Superior Court Judge Howard A. Patrick as Judge Lester Still.
- Helen Chatfield-Weeks as Dr. Linda Lethall.
- Gaye Litka as Millicent.
- Sue Saugen as Polly.
- Robert Wamsley as the sheriff.
- David Walker as the prosecuting attorney.
- Bill Bennett as the defense attorney.
- Dr. Terry Beatty as the Indian

Chief.

- Dennis Fitch as "Scoop."
- Dean Gettig as the Russian professor.
- Jan Pulkrabek as Cassie.
- Wallie Funk, cameo appearance.

Crew

- Sarah Russell, director.
- Jan Henry, co-director.
- Tom Morgan, producer.
- Carole Bartleson, graphics.
- Callie Harvey, director's assistant.
- Ken Anderson, lighting.
- Also: Debbie Nelson, Cynthia Fletcher, Barbara Weyer, Peggy Williams, Mindy Stone, Sally Huff, Bill Bennett's students, Sue and Jim Riney.

Clark An Expert On Fort Casey History

By Gretchen Young
Staff reporter

It was 1910 and Republican William Taft was President. The North Pole had just been discovered, and the South Pole was soon to be discovered. Tucked away in the corner of the Pacific Northwest, sporadic construction of an Army fort continued to occupy the minds of many residents on Central Whidbey Island as it neared the final phases of a 10-year construction period.

In the fort's tiny hospital some were busy with bringing new folks into the world. Among the first was a baby boy who would spend his first five years at the fort — and ultimately dedicate much of his life to preserving its heritage.

Now, 78 years later, lifelong Coupeville resident Mickey Clark can instantly recall the date when fish traps were declared illegal in the surrounding island waters. He remembers the days of riding the island's first school bus (a buckboard drawn by a mule) and paint a mental picture of the island before a road to South Whidbey existed.

In his nearly eight decades on the island (four of those spent delivering mail), Clark has absorbed and retained memories and events as though they occurred yesterday. Because of his interest in maintaining and preserving history, he's been involved in many local efforts to uncover the past and preserve it for those in the future. Two big projects are exploring the history of Fort Casey and the Coupeville schools.

Clark's father, Thomas C. Clark, was an engineer who worked on the construction of Fort Casey. His grandfather was one of the fort's first soldiers, bearing the rank of quartermaster sergeant.

"Seeing" Fort Casey through the eyes of Mickey Clark makes one want to ensure it is remembered well. After the fort was completed around 1910 or so, Clark remembers a military complex of 600 acres.

The original fort, a miniature town, housed a post office, bakery, two saloons, a bowling alley, a quartermaster's building, men's barracks and a hospital. Now a state park, the fort covers 137 acres, with the remaining acreage owned by Seattle Pacific University or private landowners

Clark remembers buying day-old bread that was no longer suitable to be eaten by officers for a penny a loaf from the bakery.

In 1915, motor-powered trucks were brought to the fort for transporting supplies. However, more often than not, trusty mule teams were called in to rescue broken down trucks.

In a 1916 Christmas Day menu for the 2nd Company at Fort Casey, small articles scattered throughout the 10-page flier lauded the excellent defense system stationed in the Puget Sound.

"The three greatest coast defense works of the Puget Sound are Forts Worden, Flagler and Casey ... two score mortars of heavy calibre and more than this number of high power rifles insure a coast defense system second to none in the United States."

Other articles noted the operation of submarine mines, 10- and 12-inch rifles and 12-inch mortars. The latter fired projectiles weighing one-half ton each, with a range of 16,000 yards if a lighter projectile was used.

A sample of the menu boasted roast turkey a la Maryland, baked halibut, bechamel sauce, lobster salad, English plum duff, brandy sauce, mixed candy and cigars.

After WWI, buildings were torn down and some of the guns were cut up for scrap metal, Clark said. Some of the buildings that escaped demolition were moved into town.

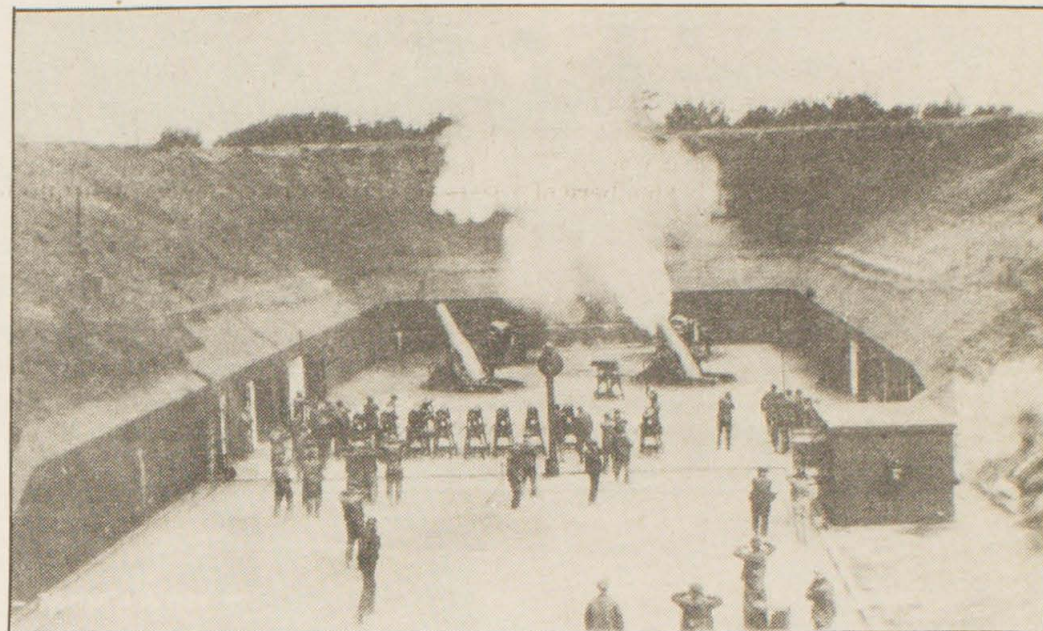
When Charles Lindbergh flew from New York to Paris in 1927, people were quick to rule out the use of amphibious forts, declaring them obsolete, Clark said.

Between the two world wars, the buildings that remained were not cared for or heated, quickening the deterioration of the wood frames, said John Harris, assistant ranger at Fort Casey.

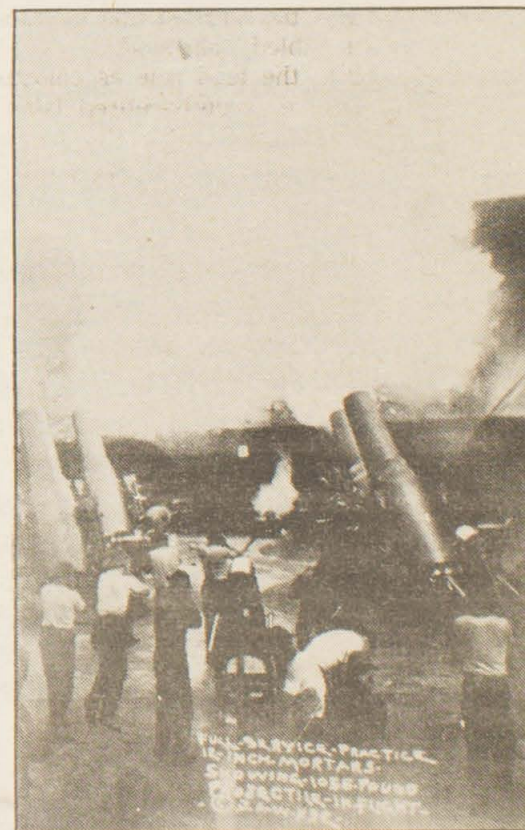
During WWII the Army trained about 10,000 troops at Fort Casey before shipping them overseas, Harris said.

After the war, the fort lapsed into caretaker status until the government purchased the land and created the state park in the early 1950s. Other purchases of the surrounding acreage followed.

Today the fort draws about 500,000 visitors annually. The turn-of-the-century lighthouse still stands, as well as a handful of other buildings including the ranger's headquarters.



Mickey Clark (left), mortars in action (above), mortar practice, projectile in flight.



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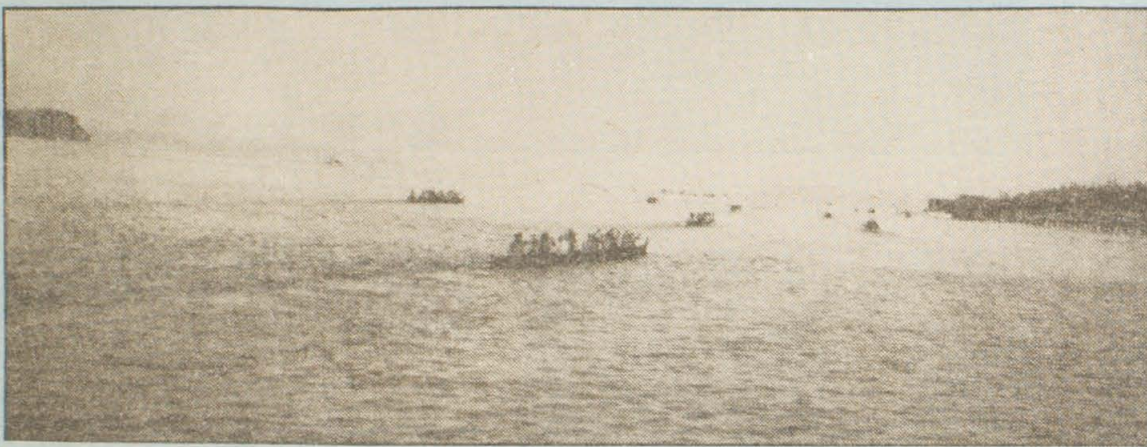
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Members of the World Champion "Telegraph" racing team paddle to the center of the Swinomish Channel in La Conner in this 1930 photograph by Ferd Brady. The famous canoe is now permanently displayed near the Alexander Blockhouse in downtown Coupeville.



A straggling team of canoe racers attempts to close the gap in this photograph of a race at the Coupeville Water Festival in Penn Cove. Thousands of people, including tourists on boats from Seattle, attended the annual event.

Coupeville's annual Water Festival, held in the 1920's and 1930's, drew national attention, and the little town on Whidbey Island was host to hundreds of visitors who came to see the Northwest Canoe Races between the Indian tribes.

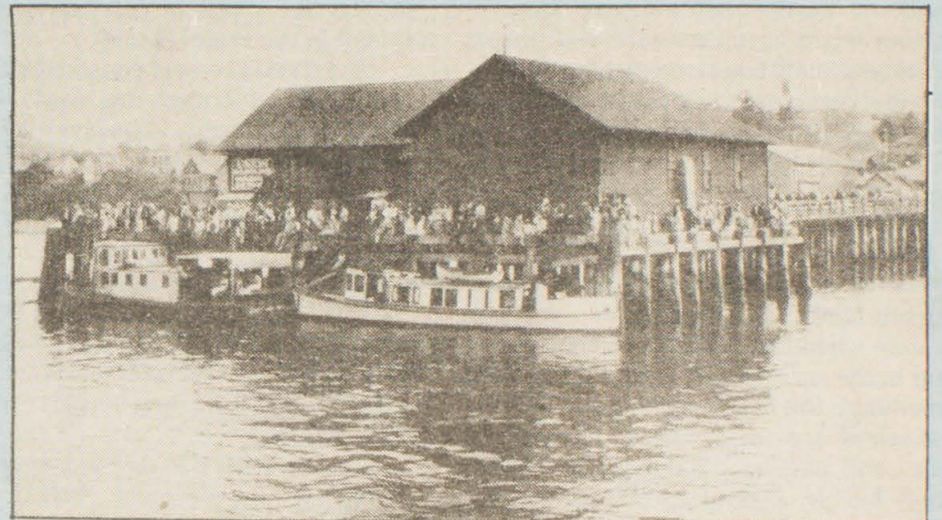
Private launches and sight-seeing excursion boats came from all over the northwest, and cars of that era packed the roads leading to historic Front Street.



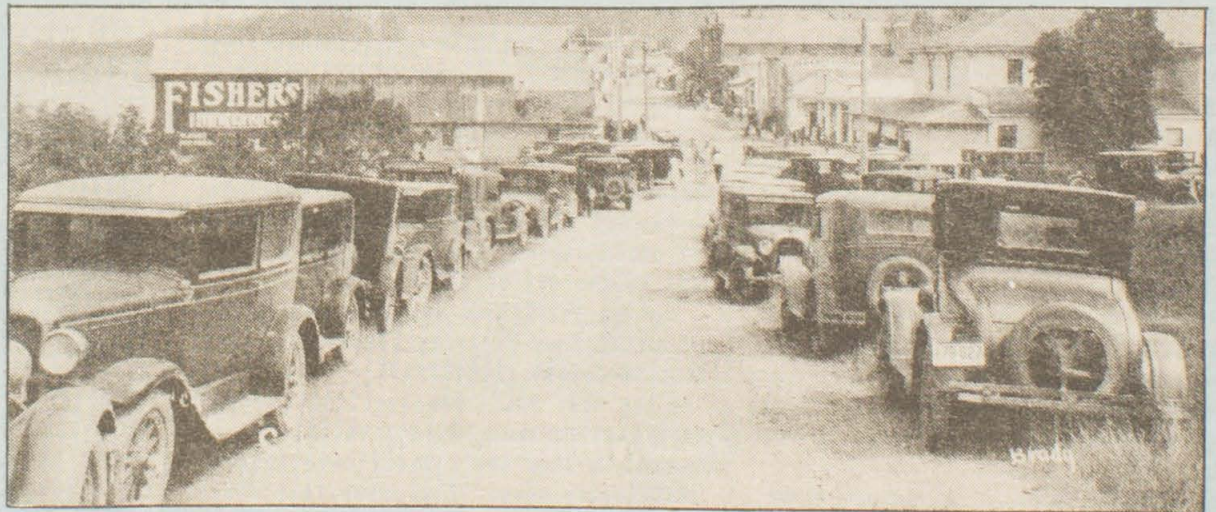
Looking toward Penn Cove and the dock is part of the crowd of people who came to enjoy the three-day festival and canoe races. The Festival was shown on movie "shorts" all over the nation as an example of one of America's outstanding cultural events.

Coupeville's Water Festival Drew Attention Across Nation

Ferd Brady photos courtesy of Wallie V. Funk



The dock at Coupeville was loaded with onlookers who came to see the nationally-renowned Indian canoe races. Boats in the foreground include a launch and a sightseeing boat loaded with visitors.



Automobiles of 60 years ago lined the Cove-side street in Coupeville (looking east) during one of the famous Indian Water Festivals of the late '20s and '30s. The large building to the right is the Blockhouse Inn, an historic building that burned in the '50s.



Indians attending the Puget Sound Indian Fair in La Conner in 1930. Note traditional Northwest Indian costumes of those on dock, as compared to the headdress of the Indian in the canoe.

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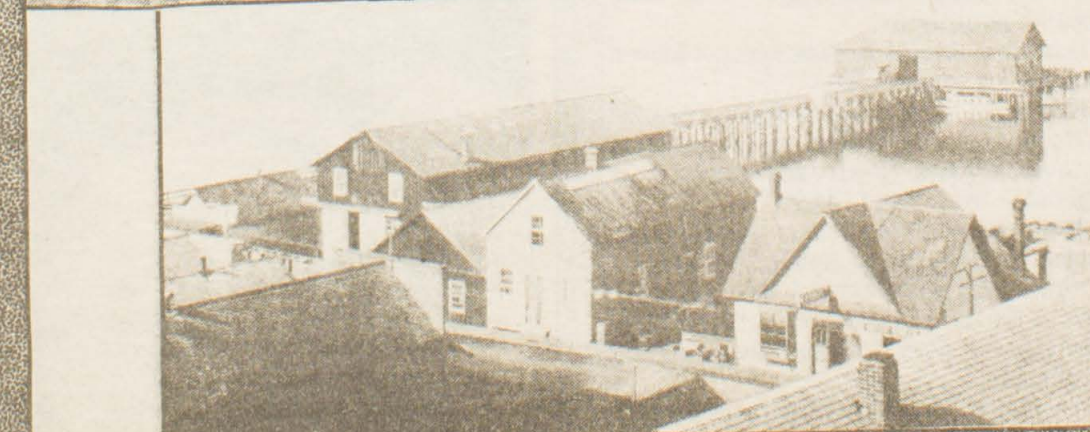
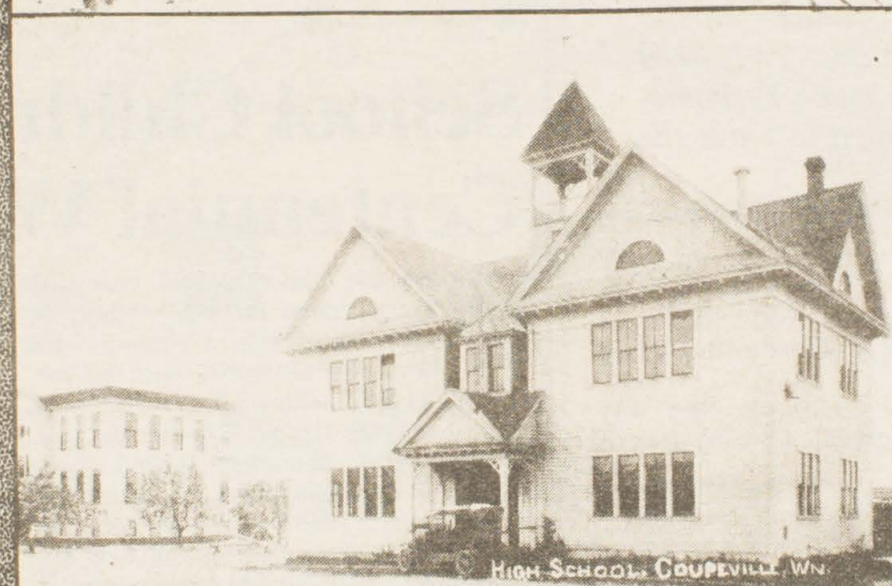
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Zylstra Family Roots Run Deep On Whidbey

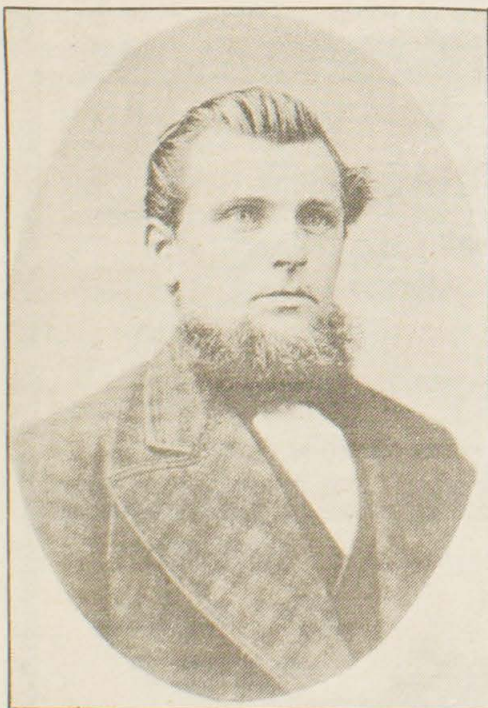
By Brian Zylstra
Staff reporter

One of the first Dutch families to settle on Whidbey Island was the Zylstra family. Since their arrival in 1896, the Zylstras have played a key role in the island's development. Prior to coming to Whidbey Island, the Zylstras had lived in South Dakota.

In the spring of 1880, Riekele van Kalsbeek Zylstra, his wife Liske, and their two sons, Jelle (James) and Ralph, immigrated to America from The Netherlands, living briefly in New York in order to learn the language and customs of their new homeland. At this time, Riekele decided to shorten his surname to Zylstra.

The family soon moved to a farm in South Dakota. During their years in South Dakota, Riekele and Liske had six more children: Taapke, Augusta, Jessie, Rance, Rien and Nicholas.

Life in South Dakota was hard on the family, as its members endured several years of crop failures. The family eventually decided to move again.



Riekele Zylstra

In 1895, Riekele made a scouting trip to Whidbey Island and liked the area so much that he immediately decided to move the family west.

On March 28, 1896, Zylstra, his wife and their eight children arrived on the island, settling in Clover Valley. They were accompanied by Riekele's father, Jelle Zylstra, two brothers, Rein and Dowe, and a sister, Augusta.

Dowe's wife, who once lived in The Netherlands, was concerned about flooding on the island, so the couple later moved to Lynden.

Riekele Zylstra and his family lived on a 20-acre farm in Clover Valley until 1907, when they moved to Oak Harbor. There Riekele built a home on the present site of the Queen Anne Motel.

After arriving on the island, Riekele became involved in business and

government.

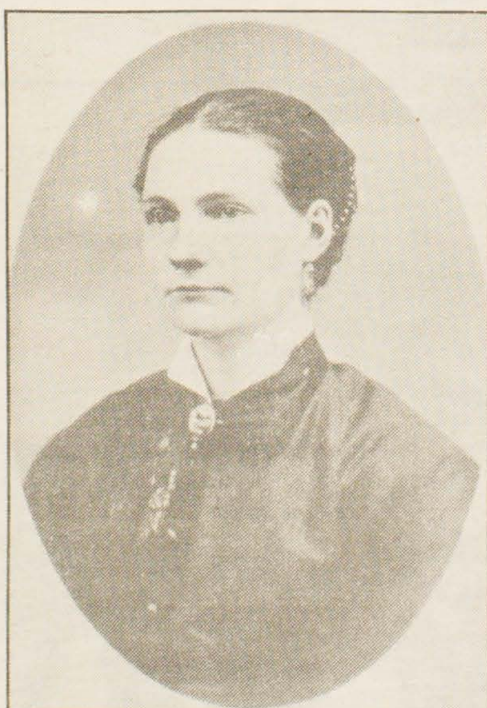
In addition to being a builder, he became involved in several enterprises, including the Oak Harbor Fruit Growers Association.

Riekele was elected Island County Commissioner in 1914 and served in that capacity for six years. He was chairman of the Island County Game Commission for several years and also served on the Oak Harbor School Board many times.

In 1895, Riekele Zylstra made a scouting trip to Whidbey Island and liked the area so much he immediately decided to move the family west.

Zylstra also had much to do with improving the road system in the northern part of Island County. Zylstra Road was named after Riekele while he served on the county commission.

One of Riekele's main hobbies was music, and he taught all of his children to



Liske Zylstra

play various instruments. His son James wrote a song about Whidbey Island, "Where the Waves of Juan de Fuca Kiss the Shores of Whidbey Isle." The song became published.

However, James Zylstra was not known only for his songwriting.

Known as "Uncle Jim," Zylstra settled in Coupeville, where he ran a law practice for over 50 years. He also served as a state legislator from 1919 to 1922.

The flagpole at the Island County Courthouse is dedicated to James Zylstra.

Rance and Rein Zylstra also played a role in the development of north Whidbey Island, as they worked in building construction.

Among the landmark structures that the two brothers helped build was the Roller Barn, on 700th Avenue. They also helped build several churches in the area.



Fourth grade Olympic View music students, intent on their performance, fine tune a song.

School Children Celebrate Centennial With Music

With the 1988-89 school year still fresh, ideas for celebrating the state's centennial are many — but few are in the works. With the Nov. 11, 1988 picnic kicking off the centennial year at the Oak Harbor City Beach Park, Oak Harbor school leaders are toying with the idea of musicals, plays and planting of trees. However, the majority of centennial activity in the district will occur next fall, according to district-wide representatives.

Since Washington State history is taught at the fourth grade level, fourth-grade music students at Olympic View Elementary will perform in a centennial musical, said music teacher Vern Olsen.

"I believe strongly in connecting music with what is being learned in the classroom, plus it's a good excuse to have kids learn songs about Washington," Olsen said.

One song the students are already practicing, titled "Washington," was written by two Fidalgo Island residents and will be the basis of the musical, Olsen said. The lyrics include a humorous look at Puget

Sound living, often prompting the children to giggle while practicing the song, he said.

"No pesky sunshine to spoil the view. Whatever you want, we don't got it too..." and the lyrics also point out the lack of mango trees and flamingos while emphasizing the abundance of geoducks and rhododendrons.

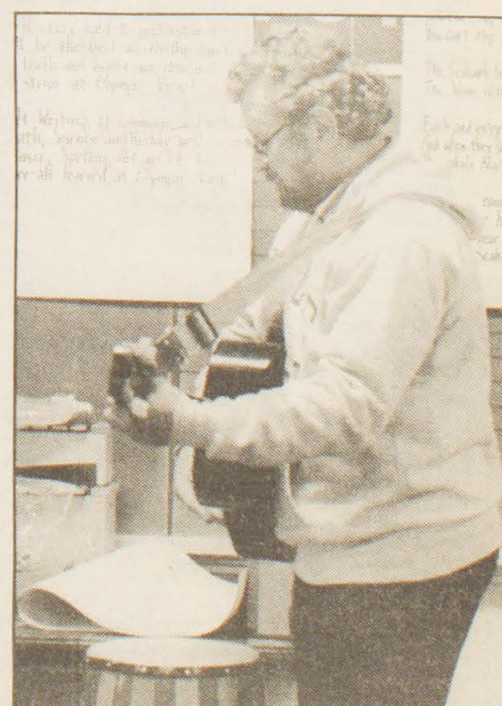
Broadview Elementary students are also planning a centennial musical, said Principal Jim Matthews.

In other district activities, students at Olympic View Elementary this fall attended a centennial play based on an Indian legend, performed by a professional puppet company.

Other possible projects for commemorating the centennial include collecting pennies for a giant centennial mural being assembled in eastern Washington, planting trees on Arbor Day and play-acting on George Washington's birthday, according to Olympic View Principal and coordinator of the district's centennial programs, Susan McCloskey.



A little drummer girl keeps the beat.



Music teacher Vern Olsen leads fourth graders in a song.

Coupeville Grads Do History 'Homework'

By Gretchen Young
Staff reporter

In the fading, black and white photo bordered with dusty cardboard matting, the four 1907 Coupeville High School graduates stared solemnly at the camera. The three boys and one girl, easily identified by Coupeville historian Mickey Clark, continued on to college, becoming the only Coupeville class where all members pursued and completed college.

Gathering this little tidbit of information was not easy, but Mickey Clark, along with a large team of other volunteers, continues to piece the 100-year puzzle of the

Coupeville school together.

"When we started on this thing, we had to deal with people that are all dead and that's hard to do, so we went to their relatives," Clark said.

Clark is a lifelong islander who was born at Fort Casey in an army hospital in 1910. The local historian, who considers himself an information gatherer, gleans pertinent information from near and far for the classes from 1889-1989. Some drifts in by mail in response to his written queries, other material reaches him in ways such as a relative's faded recollection of a person who attended the Coupeville school. One recent addition to the collection, an old class photo, was handed to him by a

friend at a local basketball game.

"It takes a lot of cooperation from the community," he said.

Although class yearbooks fortify and facilitate the search for information, lean wartime years forced the school to skip the notion of a yearbook, adding to the challenge of uncovering information.

No yearbooks were published from 1916-24, jumping to a much longer unrecorded period starting with the Great Depression in 1928 and continuing through WWII to 1946.

"You were lucky enough to buy stuff to eat ... we couldn't buy books," Clark said.

With a goal of presenting completed

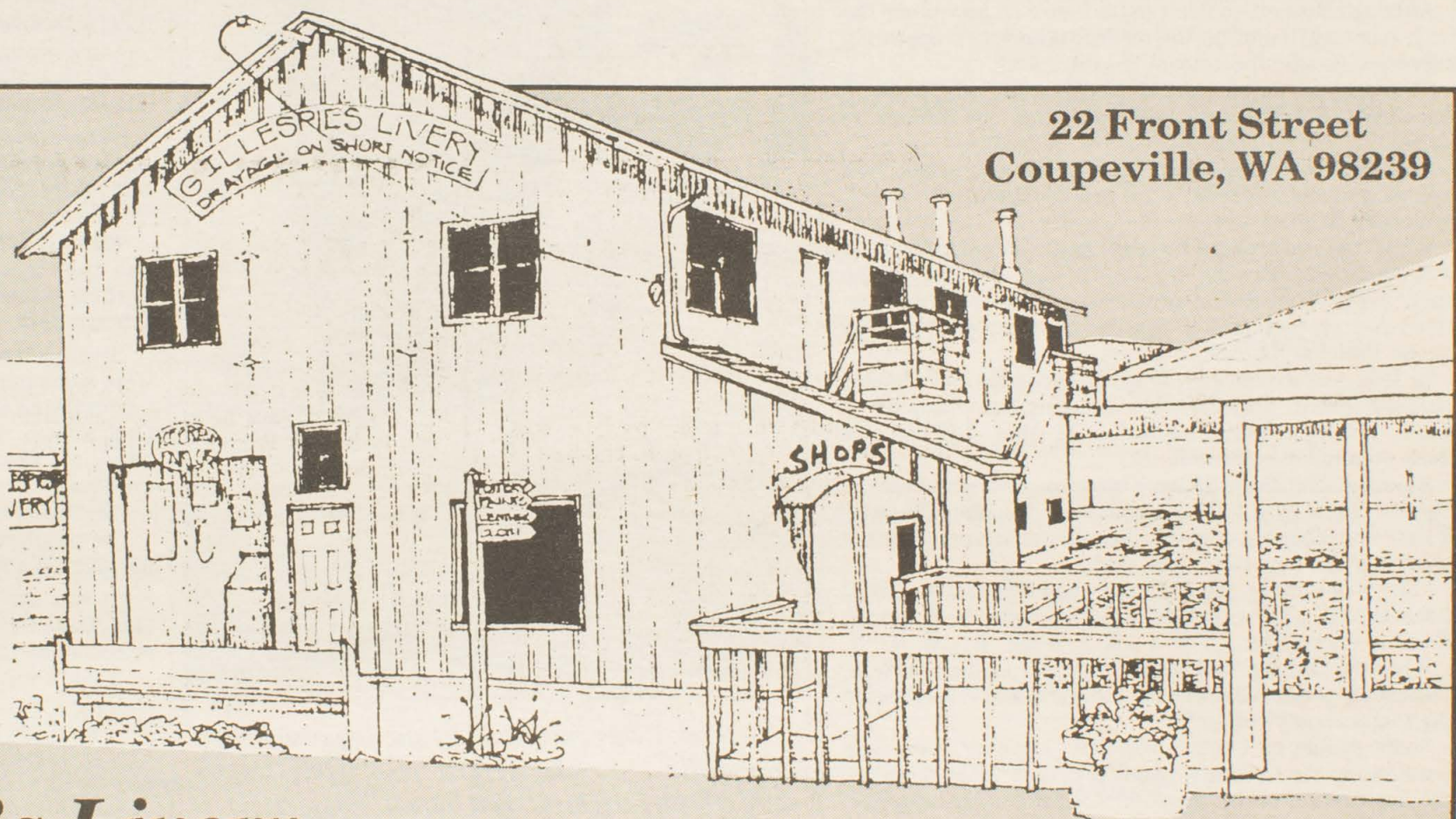
packets containing artifacts representing each school year through 1989 to the Island County Historical Society by Nov. 11, 1989, the date of the state's centennial, Clark and other volunteers are stepping up the plans and earnestly looking for more information. The historians are short of information for about a half dozen years between 1928-46, and welcome any new, updated or corrected information anyone may have relating to the Coupeville schools, Clark said.

Anyone interested in donating pictures, yearbooks, trophies or any related Coupeville school memorabilia, please contact Mickey Clark at 678-4351.

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Jimmie Jean Cook

Second Book Unlikely, Says Local Historian

By Keven Graves
Staff reporter

Former Coupeville resident Jimmie Jean Cook will long be remembered for her book "A Particular Friend, Penn's Cove," considered by many to be the foremost guide to early Central Whidbey Island history.

First published in 1973, "A Particular Friend, Penn's Cove" went through its third printing last year with proceeds from sales solely benefiting the Whidbey Island Historical Society.

"She's a very generous lady in doing all that work and then turning over her rights to the book," said Del Bennett, current president of the historical society.

Although Bennett couldn't put a figure on how much the book has contributed to the historical society's operating expenses, he said the amount is substantial.

"I'm not a writer," said Cook, who now lives in Anacortes. But this book, she said, was not difficult to write.

"I think, more than anything else, she was a lady who was very much interested in the preservation of the area," remarked Bennett.

While that was true for the most part, Cook said the book was essentially born out of research she was doing in the early 1970s on historical properties on Central Whidbey. Her research pertained to possible inclusion of properties on the National Historic Register.

In 1966, she explained, Congress expanded the register because federal projects were changing the character of small, historical towns regardless of what the people of those communities wanted.

By expanding the register, Congress gave the people of Central Whidbey a golden opportunity to nominate sites, houses and other buildings for the register and preserve the character of Coupeville, Cook said.

"She was right on top of things when this first started," Bennett said, adding that his home in Coupeville is among those on the register.

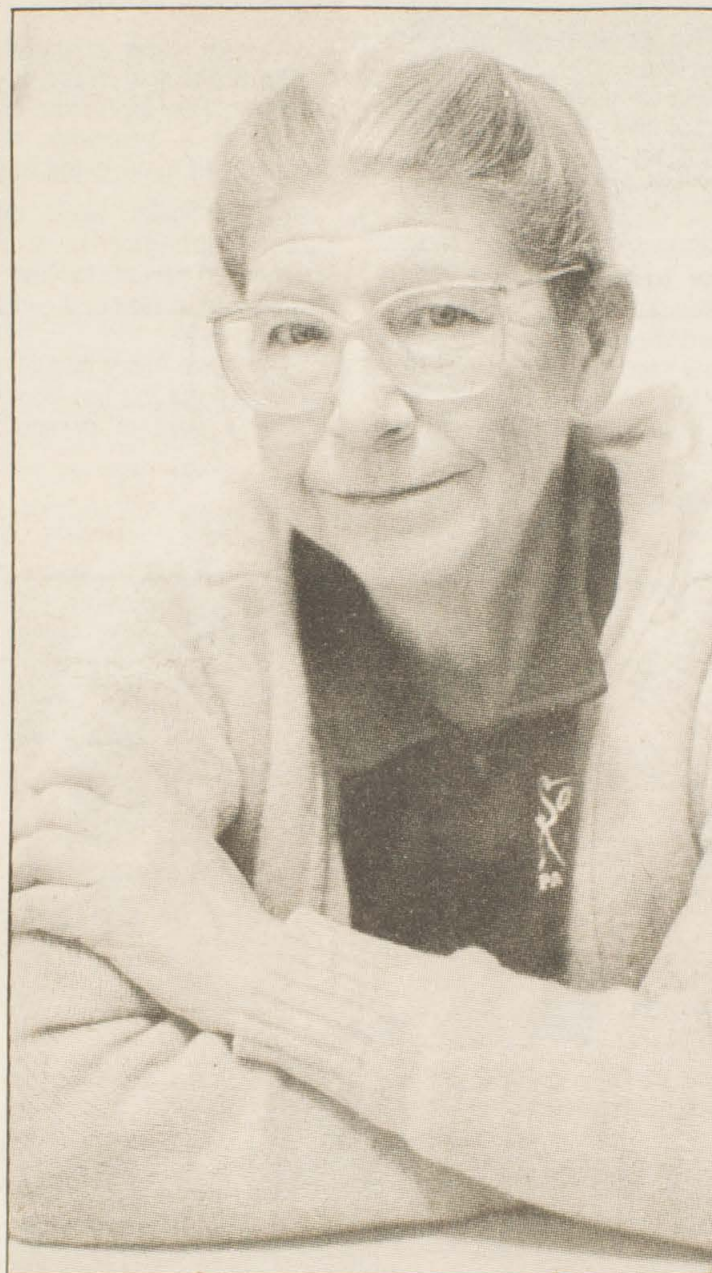
When the idea of a book began to grow from her research, Cook said, "Coupeville was the second oldest settlement in the Puget Sound region."

Some people on Central Whidbey, however, were less than happy about Cook's all-out efforts to protect against the desecration of the area's historical character, according to Bennett.

"At the time," Bennett said, "her view wasn't popular."

Cook's work was particularly unpopular with those who owned land they wanted to develop.

"We really tried to get people interested in this," Cook



"I think I was surprised by the importance of Coupeville . . . (the people who came there) were a pretty sophisticated bunch."

Jimmie Jean Cook, author of
"A Particular Friend, Penn's Cove"

said. "Part of this was to make people aware of what was there — so people wouldn't be so eager to develop."

As her work compiling an inventory for the register continued, Cook guessed she eventually counted more than 100 buildings and sites.

While doing her research, Cook said she soon realized Central Whidbey and Coupeville in the early days were favorite places of sea captains and other people who had once traveled extensively.

Anyone who was in government at the time was at some time a visitor to Coupeville, she said.

"I think I was surprised by the importance of Coupeville," she said. The people who came there "were a pretty sophisticated bunch."

Eventually, Cook said, "I had all this (information) — a box of materials."

"The whole thing was a puzzle," she recalled. "I re-created a community — right or wrong — and that was it."

"I knew the older families there and I recognized the historical importance of Coupeville," Cook added.

Earlier books which discussed early Central Whidbey history were mostly "reminiscence and heresay," she said, and really didn't give an accurate picture of early Central Whidbey.

When Cook began working on her own book around 1971, she said many close relatives of some of Coupeville's earliest settlers were still alive and provided a wealth of information.

"I was interested in talking to people," she said. There were some marvelous people there at the time."

"I enjoyed their stories and I enjoyed their company," Cook added. "They were totally dependable and nice people. They liked their childhoods and the liked what they once had."

"But," she said, "they just started dying off."

The people who were moving to Coupeville from places like Seattle and California were a different story, however.

"It was the newcomers that I butted heads with," she said matter-of-factly while sitting at her kitchen table, occasionally taking a puff from her cigarette.

"I don't miss Coupeville and they don't miss me," she chuckled.

While Cook said she enjoyed writing "A Particular Friend," and is now herself a part of Whidbey Island history, she balked at the thought of writing another book on the subject.

The book stops at 1900, Cook said, adding she would like to see someone write a book which begins where she left off.

"A Particular Friend, Penn's Cove," she said, "is just going to stand 'as is.'"

Washington Celebrates Jubilee With Music

A story in the Farm Bureau News, Jan. 19, 1939, featured a headline: "Golden Jubilee of State Honored by Brand New Song; Everybody Will Be Whistling and Singing It Soon."

"It" was the "new, official" State of Washington song, "It's A Hundred to One You're from Washington," written by a nationally-famous composer for Washington's Golden Jubilee. The song was "revealed" that week by Leo Weisfield of the Washington State Progress Commission.

The song, to boost the Golden Jubilee, was composed by Native Washingtonian Al Hoffman, described as "one of the nation's foremost popular composers." Hoffman wrote "Auf Wiedersehen" and other popular hits.

The song was introduced for the first time at the Legislative Ball in Olympia in 1939, where it was enthusiastically received by legislators and state officials.

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The Future

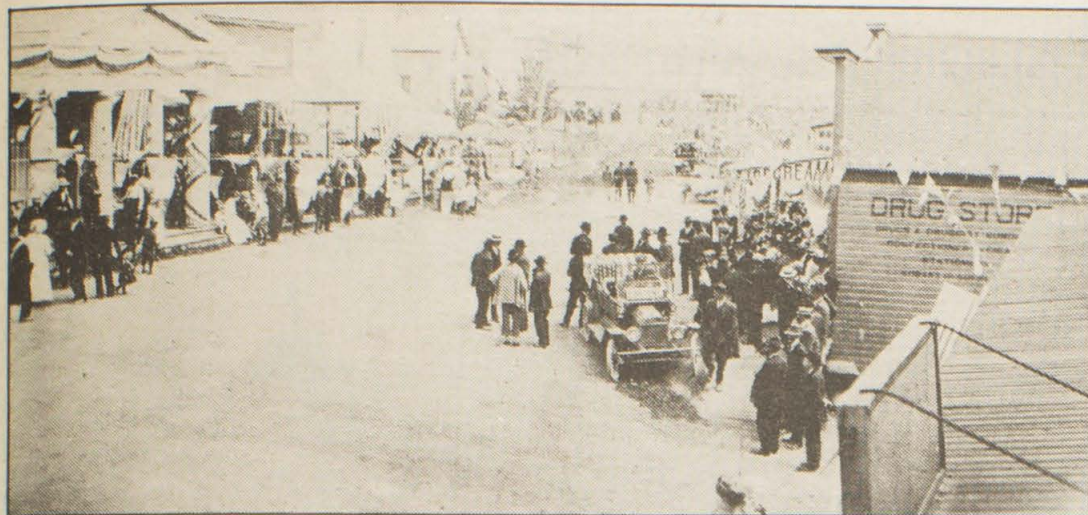
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Old Farm Bureau News office, circa 1915



Time marches on in Oak Harbor. This street scene was taken during a Fourth of July celebration.



This picture of the business section of Oak Harbor was taken about 1912-1915. Note absence of cars. Dorothy Neil photo.



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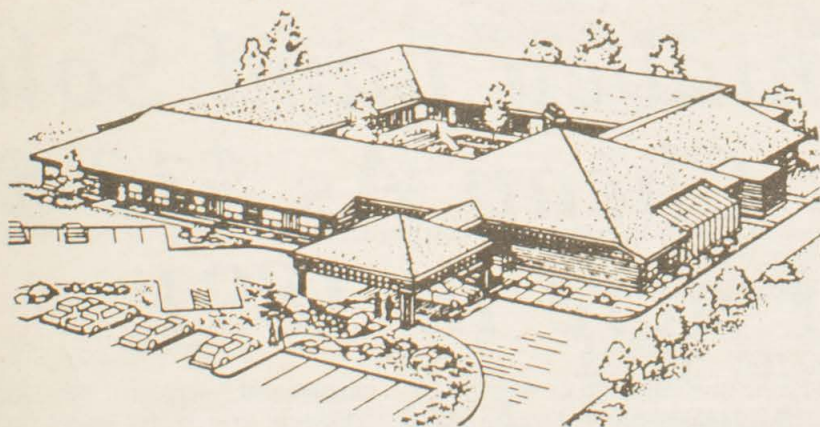
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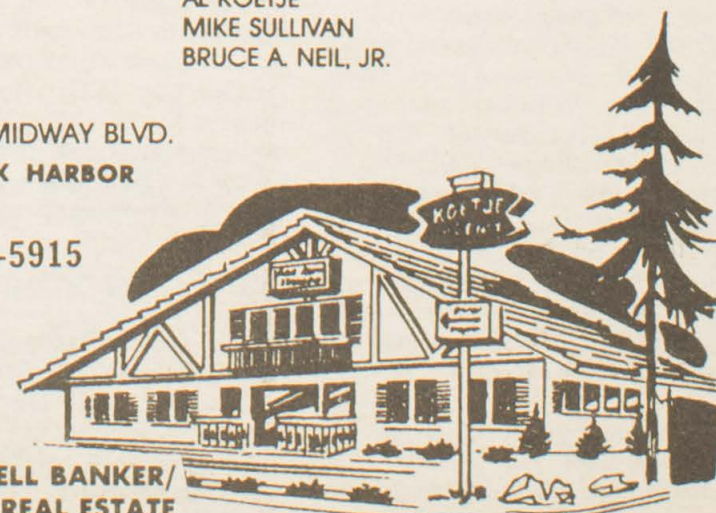


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County Forefathers Oozed Optimism

Island County residents have long been proud of their home. Even in 1891, just two years after statehood, the front page of the "Island County Times" read like a Chamber of Commerce promotional. The following are excerpts from the Vol. 1, No. 1 edition of the Times, published for the first time on St. Patrick's Day, 1891. Editor and manager of the Coupeville-based paper was Major B.F. Smythe:

"Island County, comprising Whidbey (Note: Whidbey was spelled without the 'e' in these days), Camano and Smith's islands, is one of the oldest organized counties in the state, and, considering its size, one of the most promising sections in this whole Sound country.

"It is only a year or so ago since Island County has begun to attract the attention of the general public. The old settlers have been content to dwell here in comparative peace and comfort, away from the bustle and scramble for place and profit that make up the life of other communities."

While the people of other towns and cities were busy hustling their futures, wrote the Times, Whidbey residents "cultivated their lands, improved their surroundings and educated their children in that homelike simplicity which is the mother of virtue and the instructor of sterling honesty."

"Since the early days of the Northern Pacific railroad there has been but slow progress in population in Island County, until about a year ago," the Times continued. "At present the population numbers about 1,800, and the assessed valuation of property is something like a million dollars. The principal industries are farming, fruit-raising and the manufacture of lumber."

"Taken altogether, Island County is superior to most counties in the state, and is destined to become one of the wealthiest," Smythe predicted.

Coupeville

"Coupeville, the county seat, is situated on the eastern side of Whidbey Island, and on the southern shore of Penn's Cove. It is one of the oldest settlements on the lower Sound, owing to its superior harbor and its mild and equable climate.

"Like the rest of the island, it has been slow of growth and conservative in its improvements. Its citizens did not believe in getting ahead of the country. In consequence thereof its present population numbers only about 700.

"But the town is substantial and wealthy, and lately it seems to have awakened up to a realizing sense of its own importance. Many improvements are projected and great changes for its advancement will be wrought during the coming season."

"As it is to-day, however, Coupeville can boast of some handsome residences and picturesque homes. Its citizens are cultivated and refined, courteous and sociable, and possess in a degree that magnetic attraction which makes the stranger within their gates feel as if he were welcome.

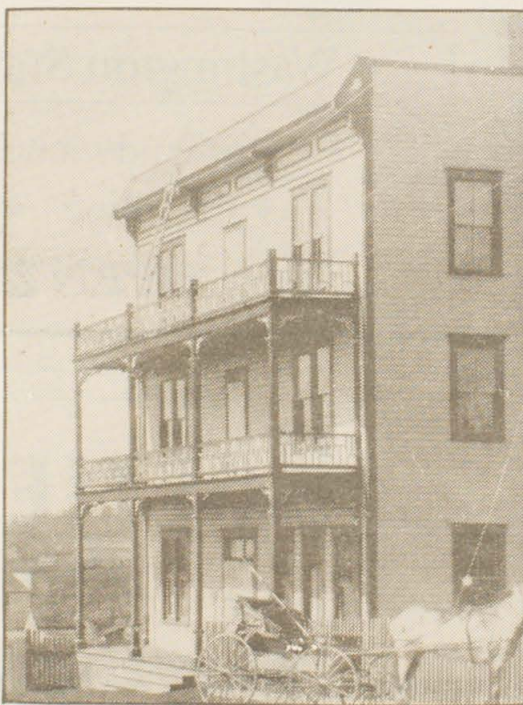
"Trade and commerce is well represented in the town. We have two general merchandise stores carrying large and complete stocks of goods, two drug stores, one boot and shoe store, one millinery store,

photograph gallery, two meat markets, one bakery, three hotels and two printing offices.

"The trades are represented by a blacksmith shop, paint shop, carpenter shops and undertaking establishment, barber shop, a steam sawmill, plasterers and builders, etc."

San de Fuca

"This little village is beautifully situated on a gently sloping prairie on the north side of Penn's Cove. It is supported by the numerous well-cultivated farms which surround it and the lumbering interests carried on in the neighborhood. A fine three-story hotel is located here. The town has prospects of growing into a popular summer resort and a good business center."



Hotel Benson, San de Fuca. (Courtesy of Peggy Darst Townsdin)

Oak Harbor

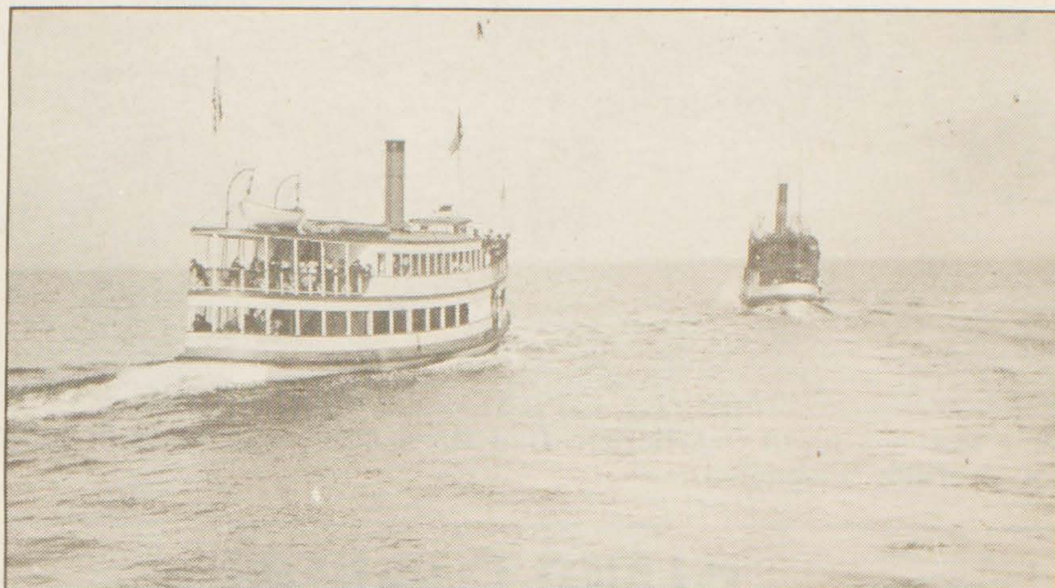
"By far the handsomest and most attractive point in the county is this little hamlet. It is situated on the picturesque little body of water from which it derives its name, on an eastern sloping prairie and is surrounded by groves of oak and fir which in the summer time lends to it an enchanting loveliness truly Arcadian.

"The town contains a good hotel, store, blacksmith and repair shop, school house, and a community of refined and intelligent people. The M.E. church has just commenced the erection of a neat little church edifice, midway between Oak and Crescent harbors, which will be completed the early part of the coming season."

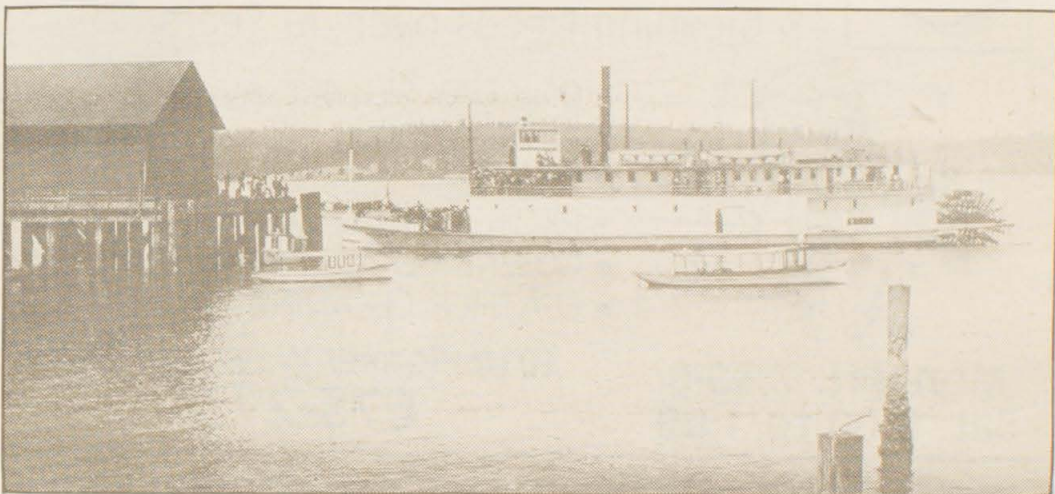
South Whidbey

"The south end of the island, consisting of about 640 acres, is reserved by the general government as a military reservation and naval defense station. The location would be one of great importance in case of war with a foreign nation, as it is a high, rock-bound promontory and commands a sweep of the entire Straits."

Marine Transportation . . .



The 'Clatawa' of Coupeville (foreground) races another steamboat during Coupeville's Fair Week. This photograph was made into a postcard, a common practice around the turn of the century.



The paddlewheel 'Gleaner' approaches the Coupeville wharf. Note two small 'launches' in foreground. Photos courtesy of Peggy Darst Townsdin from the Madeleine Darst estate.

Whidbey Land Sold As Cheap As \$10-\$30 per acre in 1891

Everyone over the age of 40 can tell stories of incredible real estate deals that slipped away — "If I owned today what I had a chance to buy then . . ." The following excerpt from a Jan. 1, 1892 article in the Island County Times tells of the ultimate "good ol' days" in the local real estate industry:

"The business and financial depression of the past year has materially affected the sale of farming lands, and yet the showing is far from discouraging.

"Prices remain about the same as a year ago, viz.: \$10 to \$30 per acre for unimproved land, and from \$80 to \$250 per acre for improved or prairie land. Very much of the land is in large holdings, which will shortly be put upon the market, and a stimulating effect will be produced when our system of public roads is enlarged to such an extent as to meet the requirements of new settlers in all parts of the island.

"This subject is now being agitated, and action will undoubtedly be taken soon, when the market for lands will be active, and the rapid growth of population, cultivation and

consequent wealth be assured. The following are the transfers recorded in the Auditor's office during the year:

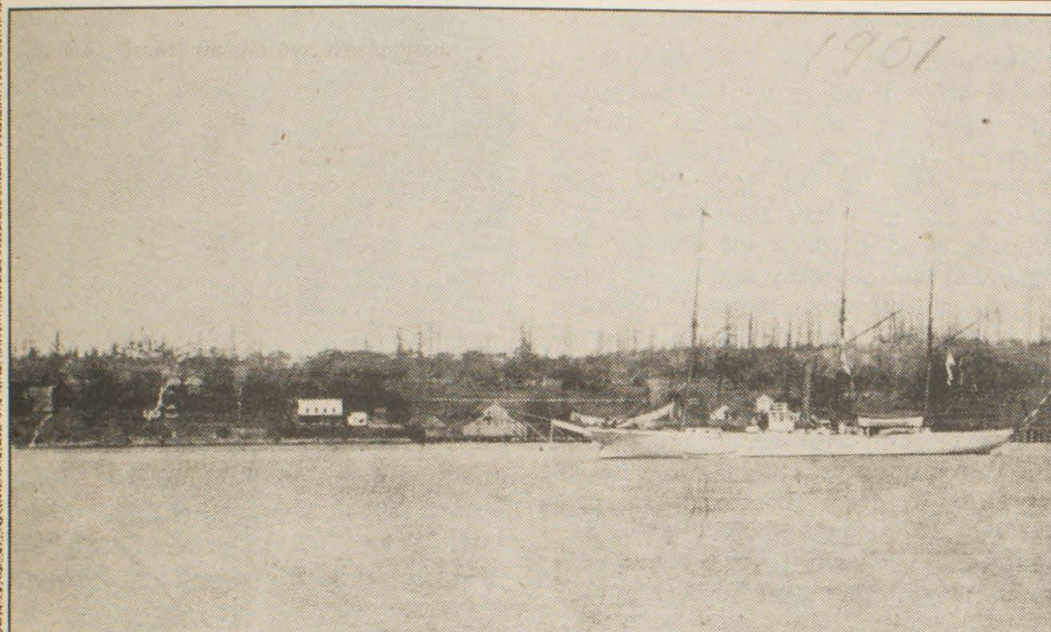
Total no. of instruments	
filed for record	588
No. of deeds recorded	88
No. acres transferred	3,808
Total consideration	

received \$33,425.00

"This (table)," the newspaper noted, "does not include the building lots sold in the several newly laid out towns of the county. Inasmuch as this is so purely a farming community, and represents solid wealth rather than speculation, it is thought best to omit this branch of realty transactions, though if figured up it would add no small amount to the total."

Houses built that year in the county ranged in cost from \$300 for the four-room home of C.W. Angel to \$1,650 for the nine-room residence of James Gillespie.

Also built that year were the two-story Puget Sound Academy, \$3,500; the courthouse, \$9,500; the M.E. Church, \$1,500.



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Island Celebrated Centennial in '48

By Steve Berentson
Staff reporter

Celebration of early Whidbey settlement years is not a unique idea. In 1948, for example, Whidbey Press published a 24-page booklet commemorating "100 years of progress" on the island. "The Centennial celebration year for Whidbey Island," wrote the editor, "is fixed by the established fact that the first white settlement on the island was made by Thomas Glasgow, who cultivated land and planted crops near the present-day town of Coupeville in the spring of 1848."

Identified as key contributors to the issue were Johnny Maylor, an amateur photographer, and Harvey T. Hill, Whidbey native and businessman who also wrote a regular column including historic sketches.

The following is the text of an article by Hill, who was described in editorial acknowledgements as ill and "in advanced age" at the time the booklet was published.

across from Maylor's store. The Smith family moved into town and built a small house near the present-day telephone office. With the addition of each new child to the family, a new room was added to the house. T.B. Warring located here about that time, with this family, as did Charles Gillispie.

"A Mr. Werkman, from Michigan, was one of the first Holland Dutch to visit the Oak Harbor area. He was an agent for an investment company, Judson Starr, which owned considerable land in the vicinity of the new town.

"Werkman was so impressed by the lush vegetation and fertile soil here — including the fact that our potatoes grew a foot long — that he took samples of our produce, including the potatoes, made a display of them on a railway coach, and exhibited them again in Michigan. I helped him select the items for the display.

"Not long after this event, Hollanders — who were already plentiful in parts of Michigan — began emigrating to this part of

"In 1889, while Washington was still a territory . . . Captain George Morse was a delegate to the territorial legislature . . ."

Harvey Hill, newspaper columnist

The article was about Oak Harbor — "From Pioneers to Planes."

"When I first came to Oak Harbor, there were about 20 people here. Among them, as I recall, were Edward Barrington and his family; L.P. Byrne; Jerome Ely; and Cap Adams, who owned a trading schooner.

"The site of Oak Harbor consisted of about 20 acres, platted by my uncle, Emmett F. Hill, who was a surveyor and who owned a farm in Swantown.

"In 1889, while Washington was still a territory, and Captain George Morse was a delegate to the territorial legislature, he and Joe Snow, territorial surveyor, were allowed \$40,000 by the legislature for a survey of a bridge across Deception Pass. They used about \$20,000 of this amount, completing the survey and estimated cost of the bridge, and locating the proposed span at almost exactly the place it now occupies. The rest of the \$40,000 reverted to the state.

"In later years, the Oak Harbor commercial club sent delegations to Everett, Bellingham and LaConner — which was then Skagit county's leading trading center — trying to raise funds to build the bridge.

"These efforts proved futile, so we took up the Deception Pass state park project, and received permission from the government to improve the grounds around that area.

"About 1892, Oak Harbor began to see new faces sifting into town and new businesses established, in what added up to a mild boom for the town.

"Maylor Brothers and (Frank) Smith erected a new store building and a dock.

"Johnny and Joe Maylor bought property from Jerome Ely for homesites, situated

the country, and it was at about the same time that these new and industrious neighbors built up the community of Lynden.

"Among the Dutch families who settled here in those pioneer Oak Harbor days and built up the community were John Capaan, a bachelor who brought with him two nephews and a niece; the Elder family; the Heller family; and Ed Vanderzicht, a skilled dairy technician who helped start a prosperous creamery here. Ed and his wife Katie settled in town; she and their children are still here with us.

"Other prosperous businesses established in the early days included the Zylstra and Straitting grocery store and harness shop, and the Eerkes store, which stood where the Co-op department store is now.

"James Neil came in and made use of some of the smaller Whidbey Island timber by cutting poles which were shipped to Mexico for use as mining props. He employed about forty men, all of whom were paid by check, and the cooperative creamery and the Izett creamery were also issuing checks to its many customers, which led to a situation in which the merchants were having difficulty in keeping enough cash on hand, since Oak Harbor in those days had no bank.

"A Mr. Fowler of Everett came into my store one day and asked what Oak Harbor needed. The answer, of course, was "A Bank." A few days later the president of an Everett bank dropped in for a talk, and a short time later, on the same property where the bank now stands, the town had a full-fledged bank.

"J.T. (Johnny) Rogers, first president and cashier, brought his family to Oak Harbor, built a fine house and soon became one of our leading citizens. He was a 'joiner,' in everything in the way of lodges and city groups.

"Then our commercial club decided it was time to count noses and apply for a town charter. A committee of T.B. Warring, Charlie Gillispie and Johnny Rogers canvassed the area, and reported 401 residents within the proposed town. We applied for and got our charter, and organized a town council, with Jerome Ely being our first mayor. Meetings were held in my store building.

"The town put in the first sidewalk, a wooden affair made of lumber purchased from Lovejoy's, of Coupeville, for six dollars a thousand. It extended from Maylor's dock to the H.T. Hill store building, and for a long time was the only sidewalk we had, until the Ladies' Improvement club got busy and raised funds for some cement walks, many of which are still in use here. One of them is the walk leading up the hill to the schools, which was built with funds raised mainly by food sales.

"In connection with the development of Deception Pass state park through the efforts of local citizens, Cranberry Lake was developed into a public picnic grounds by the Oak Harbor commercial club with the help of many community-minded farmers.



L. P. Byrne, Oak Harbor entrepreneur and businessman of the 1890s, built a hotel, store, and dock along with a warehouse and community hall on what is now East Pioneer Way.



The home L. P. Byrne built for his bride, Katherine Nunan, above Oak Tree (Smith) Park. The home still stands, is being restored. Dorothy Neil photo.

"Years later, in the 1930s, the federal government took over development of this beautiful area through the Civilian Conservation Corps. Stationed at Cornet Bay, the 'CCC' boys, most of whom were eastern lads who had never worked in the woods before, labored like beavers.

"They built buildings from native timber and stone, made rustic furniture, and by the exercise of remarkable ingenuity and with the will to work for the public good, they converted the area into one of the country's best playgrounds for the enjoyment of the public.

Through the early years of the century, this proved to be a popular spot for the old Farm Bureau picnics, with all-day gatherings enlivened by the presence of leading politicians and other celebrities.

"For many decades Oak Harbor enjoyed gradual growth and solid prosperity as the center of a rich agricultural region. Its population hovered around 500, and the people lived a tranquil life.

"All this changed in the early forties, when the government became interested in North Whidbey as the site of a big naval base. Your correspondent had had a day dream on this very subject, and had written a column explaining the good points Whidbey Island had to offer for the location of a permanent air base. Not long after this article appeared in the Farm Bureau News, I met a group of government surveyors marking the light poles near my property.

"We aren't surveying private property," one of them told me in answer to my question. "We are surveying for the

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 21)

Island Celebrated...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20)

government.'

"I enjoyed the feeling that perhaps I had had a small part in this.

"It wasn't long after that that the government stepped in and purchased huge acres of farm land in Clover Valley and other North Whidbey areas, in many cases dispossessing owners who had been born there and whose pioneer fathers and mothers had cleared the land. Heavy machinery rumbled into the formerly tranquil Oak Harbor; laborers arrived from all parts of the country.

"Business boomed. A man had to stand in line to get a meal in a restaurant; everyone had his pockets full of money; everyone was working.

"Two huge airports were constructed; buildings mushroomed about the landscape; uniformed men were everywhere. The long, sad war years came to an end, and

the town, which tripled in population between 1940 and 1946, is adjusting itself to its new, larger size and its increasing responsibilities.

"NAS Whidbey is permanent, and as this is written still another boom is in the offing, with \$18,000,000 to be spent here on airport and other facilities for the Navy. More new people will come in, and some of them will stay on and build homes here.

"Could the pioneers we have mentioned — Ely, Byrne, Morse, Hill, Barrington, Warring, Emmett Hill, Thornton, Rogers, and many others — gather together and see Oak Harbor as it is today, they would shake hands and congratulate one another, and would perhaps remark that the ball they started rolling should be likened to a snowball rather than a rolling stone.

"For myself, I say, 'God Bless Oak Harbor, and may it treat all of you as well as it has me and mine!'"



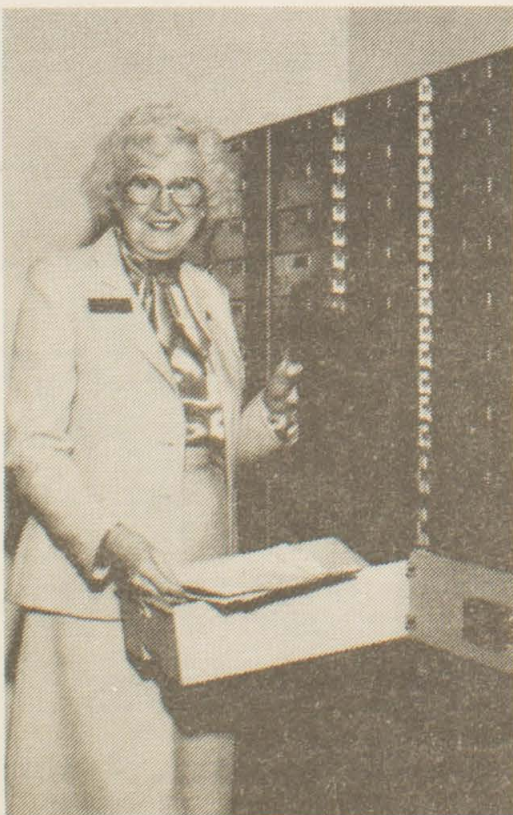
Oak Harbor housing took on a dramatic new look when the Navy moved to town in the 1940s. These trailer homes were located on property adjacent to Whidbey Press, between 300 and 400 avenues. (Photo courtesy of Orren Ward)



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"And, here's the best part. All of these services and more don't cost a cent if you maintain a \$500 monthly balance in a savings account or in a Certificate of Deposit or PayCheck checking account.

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"So, come in and find out about Masters Club from The Bank at Oak Harbor. We'll be glad to give you all the details over a cup of coffee."



1324 W. Pioneer Way • 679-4595



Puget Sound Academy (large, two-story building in center) was built in Coupeville in 1891 for \$3,500.

Coupeville Boasted Academy In 1891

Newspaper review of community progress in 1892 included a brief description of the Puget Sound Academy. "... the Puget Sound Academy," wrote a reporter for the Island County Times, "is in a flourishing condition."

The article continued: "During the last year (1891) a new building has been erected at a cost of \$3,500, which will be occupied at the commencement of the next term."

"During the year seventy-four pupils have been enrolled, the average number belonging having been fifty-four. The institution has a corps of four teachers, and embraces three courses of study, the classical, scientific and normal."

"The aim of the institution is to make the course of study so complete and thorough that the student is fitted to enter any of the higher institutions of learning, or to engage in active business pursuits."

"How this intention is carried out is indicated by the fact that one of the graduates who entered Oberlin College stands third in his class in the study of Greek."

"It is contemplated adding a primary department to the school, if sufficient encouragement is given. The prospects for the future are exceedingly encouraging, as the school is acquiring a reputation far beyond the limits of Puget Sound."

Evergreen State Almost Christened 'Columbia'

Any confusion between Washington, D.C. and the State of Washington was very nearly made impossible in the mid-1800s, when this territory almost became the State of Columbia. According to at least one account, this state owes its name to a Kentucky congressman.

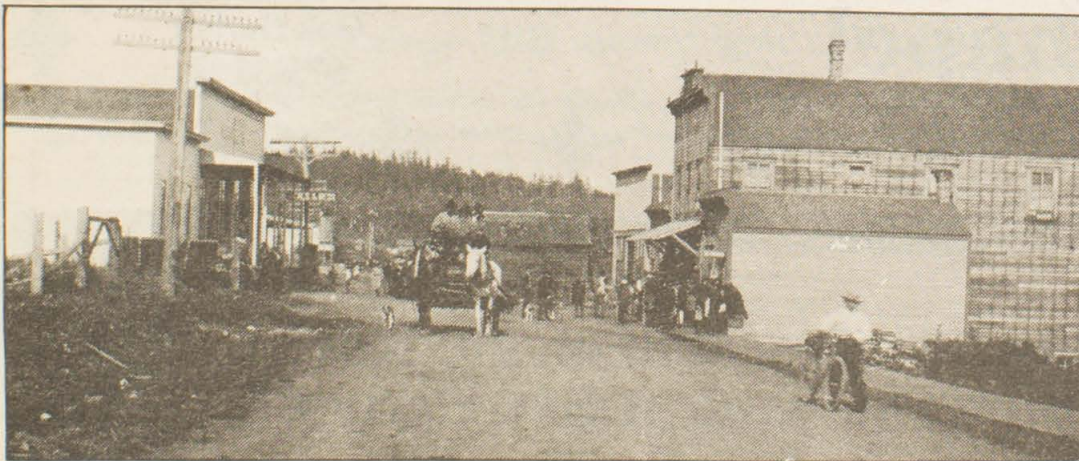
In the July 10, 1891 edition of the Island County Times it was reported:

"The petition to be set off as a separate Territory from Oregon was before Congress as early as 1852, but was not acted upon till 1855."

"The name proposed was Columbia, but (Rep.) Stanton said: 'We have already a Territory of Columbia. This district (the nation's capital) is called Columbia, but we never yet have dignified a Territory with the name of Washington.'"

"I desire to see, if I should live so long, at some future day a sovereign State bearing the name of the father of his country. I therefore move to strike out the word 'Columbia,' wherever it occurs in the bill, and insert in lieu thereof the word 'Washington'."

The Times noted: "The motion prevailed, and if Mr. Stanton had lived till now, he would have seen his desire for a sovereign State with the name of Washington gratified."



It was horse and buggy days in Oak Harbor when L. P. Byrne began building a "main street" in Oak Harbor in the 1890s. To the right was the Byrne hotel and store, to the left a blacksmith shop and creamery. Courtesy of Spindrift.



Farmers Trading Co., Oak Harbor, a creamery, had an up-to-date method of transporting cream by truck.

Early Writers Praise Whidbey

(From the Island County Times, March 17, 1891. The Times was owned by a group of Coupeville business leaders who incorporated under the name "Island County Publishing Company. The paper was established in 1891, edited by Major B.F.

Smythe):

"Whidby Island is 36 miles long north and south, has an average width of seven miles and contains about 168,000 acres. It consists of about one-third prairie and two-thirds timber land."

"The soil is rich and diversified, and produces in abundance all kinds of grain and vegetables. The productiveness of Whidby Island is shown to be greater per acre than any other section of the Pacific Northwest."

"Some of the best bred animals (draft horses) in Washington are reared on this island," the newspaper reported. "They are of the Norman and Percheron stock, which were imported direct from France and first brought here, we are informed, by Mr. John Robertson, an old and respected citizen of Island County."

School Days, 1891

The following is a report of the Coupeville School District No. 2 for the term ending Dec. 18, 1891:

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT:	
Total pupils	54
Average daily attend.	35
Percentage attendance	79
GRAMMAR DEPARTMENT:	
Pupils enrolled	50
Average daily attend.	35
Percentage attendance	87

Largest selection of toys and games in Island and Skagit Counties

TED'S TOYS & HOBBIES

Proudly serving you for 22 years with

Toys • Games
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Professional Dry Cleaning

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SELF SERVICE LAUNDRY

Open 6 a.m.-11 p.m. Everyday

Come, join us for
tea or coffee
at Dutch Maid!
OAK HARBOR



DRY CLEANING

Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
Sat. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

LARGEST WASHER IN TOWN

Big 50 lb. Uni-Wash for large washes

3323 300 Ave. West
675-5488

Tom T. Hall wants to know:

"WHO WOULD YOU CALL IF THE WELL RAN DRY?"



- ☐ "You'd need help in a hurry, because you couldn't live very long without water!"
- ☐ I'd call my Goulds dealer.
- ☐ Because he's a well water expert. Because he'd install a quality system, and use Goulds pumps because they're the best in the world.
- ☐ And because he'd get me the water I needed in a hurry!
- ☐ When it comes to the important things in life — like water — it's nice to have someone you can count on."



Your Goulds Dealer: Bringing you something
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COMPLETE WATER TREATMENT SERVICE

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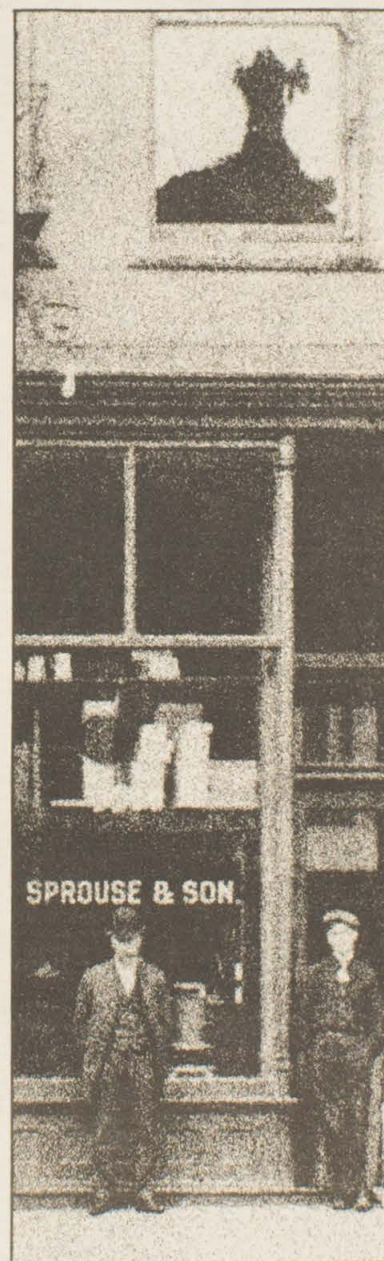
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(Behind the Old Town Cinema)



- VISA
- MASTER CARD

Washington State Is Celebrating 100 Years



*In 1989,
our 80th
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Sprouse Reitz
is becoming*

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Starting in January, you'll see the new SPROUSE! logo in our circulars, newspaper advertising, and television commercials . . . and on signs and banners in our more than 300 store locations in the 11 Western states. Sprouse Reitz is now SPROUSE! and we think you'll like the difference.

Every SPROUSE! store offers quality merchandise at affordable prices . . . great selection for you, your family, and your home . . . plus unbeatable "home-town" service! And every store is designed to make your shopping easier.

You'll find ample parking at our shopping center locations . . . store layouts, signs, and merchandise displays that help you find items quickly . . . dedicated salespeople who provide knowledgeable assistance when you want it . . . and fast, efficient checkout service.

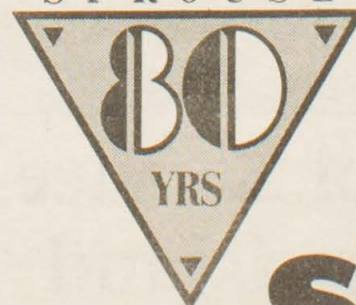
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Thank you for shopping

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YOU'LL LIKE THE DIFFERENCE!

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A History of Service to Whidbey Island

*Oak Harbor
Freeland*

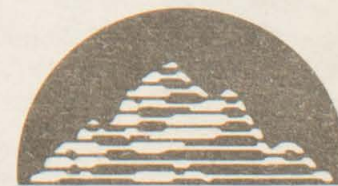
*Coupeville
Clinton*

As we join together with all of Whidbey Island to celebrate Washington State's Centennial Year, we are reminded of our humble beginning in a one-room store front in Oak Harbor. Today we proudly serve Whidbey Island from five conveniently located modern facilities.

Since we started our savings bank in 1957, our only goal has been to serve you, our customers, in every possible way. As we continue to grow in the towns and small cities of Washington, our commitment to you grows as well.

Quite a lot has changed since we first opened our doors to Whidbey Island. But not how we treat you, our customers. Thanks to your warm response, we've grown. With over \$600 million in assets, InterWest is ranked among the strongest thrifts in the United States.

Now, as then, we firmly believe that each person is truly someone special and deserves to be treated that way. That's why when we say we're "Banking on a Human Scale" it's more than a slogan, it's a commitment.



InterWest Savings Bank

Banking on a Human Scale.