

Spindrift Two

Spring
1992



VOLUME 14 NUMBER 3

\$1.00

Whidbey had own centennial in 1948

In 1948 the Whidbey Press published a souvenir edition commemorating Whidbey Island's Centennial, 1848-1948. The small booklet included stories by Coupeville's Carl Engle, Oak Harbor's Harvey T. Hill and Langley's Sid Nourse, plus pictures of various Islanders and the Island itself. The Centennial year was fixed by the 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.

Coupeville

Engle wrote of two "booms" in the settlement of Coupeville, which was established in 1854 by Capt. Thomas Coupe who built a home there. The house is still standing.

The establishment of the Puget Sound Academy in the late 1880s made Coupeville the educational center for the northern Puget Sound area and students came from all over the surrounding area and as far away as Oregon. Spurgeon Calhoun and Carl Engle made up the graduating class of 1894. The second "boom" came in 1902 when Fort Casey was established.

A sawmill, built by Luther Clark and operated by the Lovejoy Brothers

survived for many years. The Lovejoys built four steamboats at Coupeville. One of the boats went to the Yukon to operate and the other three plied the Sound for many years. A potato dryer was built during the Alaska Gold Rush days and operated for some years. Attempts to establish a cannery were futile. Three different attempts were made to establish a railroad on Whidbey, one proposal about 1890 and the next about 1910. The last try included selling stock and when several thousands of dollars were collected by investors, the promoters left with the money

Langley

Sid Nourse told of Jacob Anthes landing at Useless Bay to join a number of loggers with camps on South Whidbey, building a log cabin on 120 acres in 1881 just one mile west of the present town of Langley. Anthes is celebrated as the "Father of Langley."

When in 1890 the Great Northern Railway started building and platting townsites, Anthes along with Judge J. W. Langley of Seattle, C. W. Sheafe, James Satterlee, A. P. Kirk and Howard Slausen incorporated and the town of Langley was born. A dock, general store and post office were built, Anthes taking over as Langley's first storekeeper and Postmaster. A log school

house was erected for the town's 15 children and trails built into the interior of South Whidbey.

In the early 1890s Langley was dealt a number of hard blows: the dock went out in a storm, and the mainland railroad to Bellingham put steamboats out of commission and lost for Langley a steady source of revenue. However, as with other areas in the Northwest, Langley has progressed. Clinton, Freeland and other small communities have sprung up and the population is growing. Its proximity to the mainland cities of Everett and Seattle has attracted many artists and home owners who use the Mukilteo ferry to go back and forth to work or play.

Oak Harbor

Harvey T. Hill, veteran historian, businessman and community activist, came to Whidbey in the 1880s. He told of coming to Oak Harbor when there were only 20 people living there. He built and operated stores and was instrumental in obtaining a bank for the town. (His home, built on 30th NW still stands in 1992, owned by the Opportunity Council and used to temporarily house Oak Harbor's homeless.)

The town grew slowly. Businessmen L. P. Byrne, Joe and John Maylor, Hill and others started businesses and promoted the harbor. In 1894 the first party of Hollanders arrived which would herald a general influx from Michigan and the Dakotas, and later from Canada. The Dutch added materially to the establishment of the town, and in 1915 Oak Harbor became incorporated with a population of 300. In 1942 the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station was established on North Whidbey, and Oak Harbor's growth exploded. In 1948 the census reported over 17,000 inside the city limits, and a general number of about 30,000 on all of North Whidbey.

Miss Print

PRINTING AND COPY SERVICE

QUALITY FULL SERVICE PRINTING

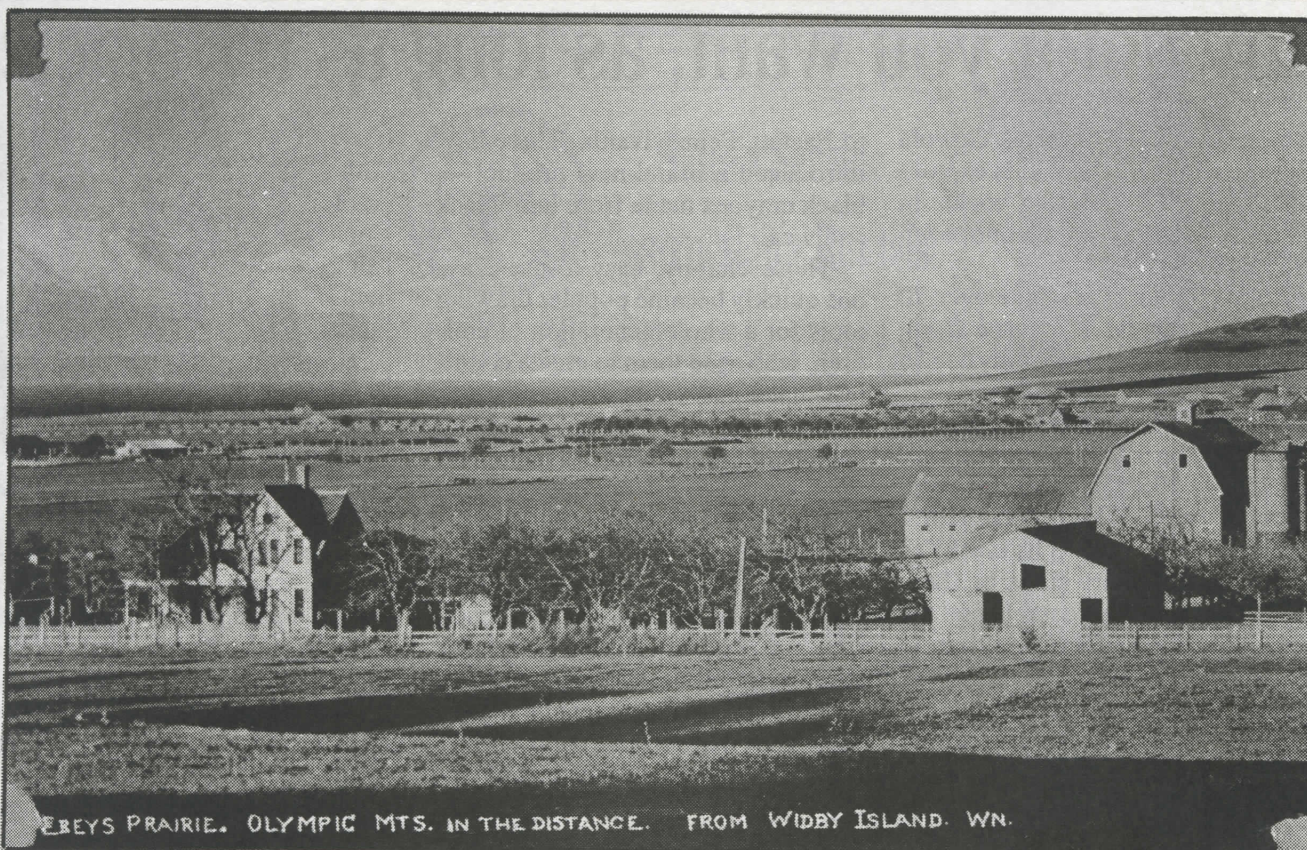
BUSINESS CARDS • LETTERHEAD-ENVELOPES
TYPESETTING • LAYOUTS • FLYERS
CARBONLESS FORMS • QUICK PRINTING
BINDERY • FAX • VISA ACCEPTED

• 675-2002 •

1397-G Midway Blvd. • Oak Harbor



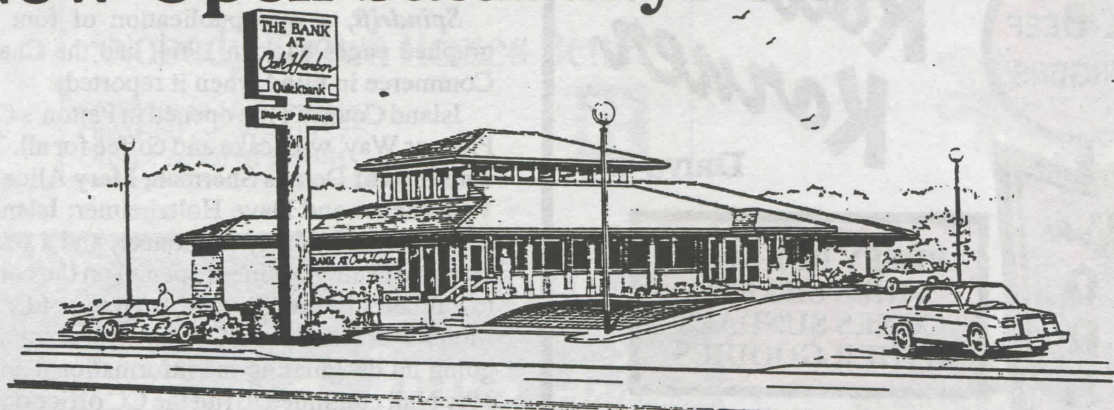
"We Aim To Make The
Best Impression"



EBEYS PRAIRIE. OLYMPIC MTS. IN THE DISTANCE. FROM WIDBY ISLAND. WN.

Thanks to preservationists, Ebey's Prairie still looks much the same at it did in this early postcard view. The view is looking west over Puget Sound, but the "Olympic Mts. in the distance" were lost in reproduction.

Now Open Saturdays 9:30 - 1:30



Now you can get full service banking on Saturdays.
We're open, both lobby and drive-up, 9:30 AM to
1:30 PM for your convenience.

- Checking accounts
- Savings accounts
- Investments
- 24-hour ATM
- Business services
- Loans

1324 W. Pioneer Way • Oak Harbor, WA • 679-4595



Coupeville



In the late 1880s the West Coast drew thousands of Chinese who came to make money in growing America to take back to China where they and their families would live comfortably ever after. Coupeville, San de Fuca and Oak Harbor each had a complement of Chinese workers.

The Chinese were untiring workers who rented land, cleared it and put in potatoes. All of Whidbey Island's Chinese were bachelors, whose families lived in China, and who awaited their masters' return.

The pioneer farmers on Whidbey Island had their complements of Chinese workers, and indeed many of them became trusted family servants. The Hancock family employed Johnny Gong from 1905 to 1920. He lived alone in a tiny cabin across a pond from the Hancock farm buildings. When Johnny Gong would go into Seattle on the boat, he would bring young Vera Hancock small presents, little embroidered scarves, some of which are still in the family. When Johnny went back to China with his savings, he bought a young wife who took all his money and ran away with it, leaving him to die pen-

niless.

Other Chinese had better luck, sending their pay home to their families and finally going home to enjoy the money they had earned.

The Chinese became a problem on the West Coast, with the sale of opium, not regarded at that time as a problem for law enforcement. In Coupeville the Asians lived in a bunkhouse on Ebey's Prairie, and Carl Engle, son of one of Whidbey's first settlers remembered well the Chinese of that time. As a young boy he often visited them, going into the bunkhouse to see them smoke opium after a hard day hoeing or digging potatoes. He remembered how they prepared the pipe.

Opium came in square brass cans about five inches square and was dispensed over the counter such as a glass of beer is today. The stuff was of the consistency of cold very thick black molasses. For 25 cents the bartender put a dab the size of a quarter on a playing card. This was stuck on the end of a wire and cooked over a flame to a consistency that could be rolled with the fingers on the round part of the opium pipe. By kneading, it became smaller until it was the size

of a grain of wheat. It was then removed carefully from the wire and place in the little hole in the round end of the pipe. The pipe was held over a little four inch lamp holding oil and the smoker would give four or five puffs on the pipe and the grain was gone. For 25 cents more the operation could be repeated.

Not all of the Chinese were addicted, but smoked it for the lift it gave them after a long and hard days' work, much as a cup of coffee does today.

Those Chinese who did not work for the farmers, rented small patches of land and raised potatoes.

The Chinese were here only about 20 years, having evoked the animosity of pioneer farmers up and down the coast. They worked hard and undersold their crops,

The 1891 Sun newspaper noted that "the Chinamen of Captain George Morse's farm in Oak Harbor were clearing land, about 70 acres, and were putting in potatoes." The News said further that the "Chinese question must be settled on Whidbey sooner or later, and the move to clear Whidbey of Chinese should not be



CENTER ISLE REALTY

Serving the Entire Island for 20 years

5 South Main Street, Coupeville WA 98239

678-5858



OLD SEAPORT CHARM

There's more to explore in the Ebey's Landing National Historic Reserve.

200 NW Coveland St., Coupeville, WA 98239
(206) 678-6668

put off until they secure land for another year." As a result the potato pits on the Morse farm were burned out.

John Gould of Oak Harbor owned land on Ebey's Prairie and was offered three times as much for his land as Ed Jenne was then paying for it, but Gould refused to rent to the "Celestials."

The Sun continued its diatribe on the Chinese. Farmers refused to sell them teams to work their land and noted "The grippe has passed from this vicinity. The Chinese were the only ones who did not catch it, even the dread disease will have nothing to do with the Orientals."

Postal money orders sent by the Chine to their native land were tallied by the Coupeville post office and the Sun of May 2, 1891 reported the sum of \$2,251. Much was also sent by postal note and check and a greater sum carried to Port Townsend and Seattle and from there taken to China, possibly not less than \$10,000, never to return. The white men would have invested this sum, thus improving the economy, said the Sun. "Every Chinese paid a dollar on Whidbey, meant that 75 cents would never return!"

In 1940, a discovery was made that brought back that decade in Coupeville's history when almost every large farm boasted at least one Chinese resident, who either rented a small plot of land for himself, or worked on a share basis. The remains of an old barbecue pit were unearthed on the site of the former Chinese Village.

The pit was discovered by Burton Engle, while breaking new land near the power transformers on the highway north of Coupeville to Prairie Center.

The stones of the barbecue pit, old-timers recalled, were all that remained of a village built at the site in 1891. The "village" boasted one large building, a combination store, gambling place and bunkhouse, and five or six smaller cabins.

Toy Leon, an educated Chinese



who boasted an excellent command of the English language, was acknowledged leader of the 25 or 30 "celestials" who inhabited the village. Leon would rent land from the farmers, then in turn hire his fellow-countrymen to cultivate the ground.

Besides those inhabiting the village, there were other Chinese who lived in little huts scattered about on various farms. All together, it is estimated that at one time more than 50 Chinese resided in or near Coupeville.

In 1940 many old-timers still remembered venturing by the village when they were children. The Orientals were good neighbors, honest almost without exception, and fond of youngsters.


At Chinese New Year, each hut

would be cleaned to perfection, and the village would be given over to several days' celebration. Whole pigs would be cooked in the pit that was unearthed. But time wrought its changes. White men could not labor in competition with the Chinese and the new industrial era helped make jobs harder to get. In 1901 the village was torn down.

Ah Soot, who lived on the LeSourd farm, renounced his hopes of Chinese heaven in order to be buried in Coupeville Cemetery near F. A. LeSourd. Ah Soot was buried in the LeSourd plot in 1925, near the spot where his beloved friend and master had been laid to rest four years before.

Last representative of his race was aged Ah Bo, who lived in a little hut on the R. P. Engle farm. In his later years, when he was too old for farm work, Ah Bo would spend the winter in a warm steam-heated apartment in Seattle. When spring came he would go north to Alaska to work in the canneries.

But for a few months each fall, he would live in the hut where he had spent so many years.



Creative Contemporary Cuisine

Each meal individually prepared by
Chef Christopher Panek

We Feature Northwest Wines & Beers

Open Wednesday-Sunday	Reservations Suggested
Lunch 11:30-2:00	Dinner 5:00 - Last seating at 9:00
Front Street	Coupeville, Washington 678-5480

Coupeville Pharmacy

- Complete Pharmaceutical Supplies
- Free Rx Delivery



- Gifts & Fenton Glass
- Russell Stover Candy
- Carlton Cards

40 N. Main

678-4010 • 678-8882

Settlers were hard-working dreamers

At the head of Penn Cove, next to the historic Island County courthouse, is "the Libbey house" built in 1904 by George and Annie Hancock Libbey. The Libbey and Hancock names are prominent among early day settlers in the Penn Cove and Coupeville areas. George Barstow Libbey, son of Samuel and Sarah Barstow Libbey was born in Maine.

Samuel in the early 1850s started to California to join the Gold Rush. Finding the gold rush somewhat less than what he expected, he came north, locating a claim of 320 acres at Point Partridge on the west side of Whidbey Island. He lived there alone until 1859, clearing the land of the forest trees.

His wife and two sons, Joe and George joined him that year and the family lived on the acreage until the Indians became troublesome, and they moved to the head of Penn Cove on the west side of the Island, at Couveland, the important town on Whidbey, although there were only two houses there at that time.

They stayed there a few months

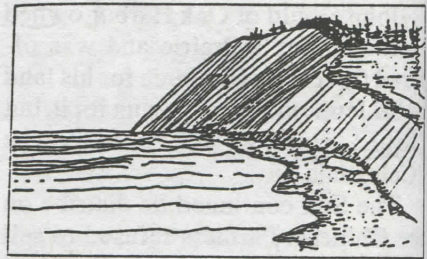
then returned to the farm. George Barstow Libbey stayed on the farm until his marriage to Ann Hancock. Upon his retirement, he rented his land and retired to Penn Cove, where he purchased a small orchard.

His brother Joe was elected County Treasurer for two terms and County Auditor for five terms.

Walking the West Beach 1-mile trail from Fort Ebey toward Point Partridge some 2½ miles northward, the trail leads to an 80-acre half salt and half fresh water lake with a sloping green bluff some hundreds of feet rising upward.

Perego's Lake and Perego's Bluff were named for George Washington Samuel Hilliard Perego, who took a claim of 155 acres around 1880, which included the lake. Perego had settled on South Whidbey in 1870 but he was too isolated, so moved north.

In 1894 the Island County Times editor A. D. Blowers, for whom Blowers Bluff on Scenic Heights was named, wrote of a visit to the Coupeville newspaper office by Perego.




"Veteran George Washington Samuel Hilliard Perego was in town the first of the week and made the Times a call. He was accompanied by three canines . . . he has seven in all . . . who keep him company on the lonely isle, or spit when the tide is at ebb, on Whidby Island's West Beach. He had just received his back pay or pension for his service in the Mexican War and was jubilantly paying up his old and new debts and having a good time generally.

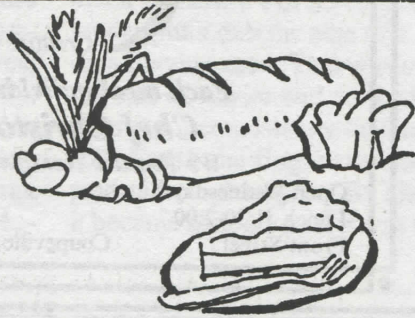
"George served in all the wars since 1812, he says, first in the Seminole War under Lt. Raymond Rogers of the Schooner Phoenix where he acquired his battery knowledge.

"Later in the Mexican war he was gunner, and claims to have shot the first shot at Vera Cruz under General Winfield Scott. He says he fought in the war of the Rebellion (Civil) but didn't fight with the same spirit he had in other wars. After the Civil war Perego returned to his Baltimore home, then went to sea, turning up on the Pacific Coast and from there to Whidby Island on the bluff that bears his name.

"George Perego is getting ancient but still maintains the hope that he will see, on this charmed spot, the Stars and Stripes float over one of the finest fortifications on the Pacific Coast, spreading its wings over and protecting the commerce of the world mart," said Blowers.

Had George Washington Samuel Hilliard Perego lived another 50 years he would indeed have seen his hope come true in the establishment of the Whidbey Naval Air Station. 

KNEAD & FEED



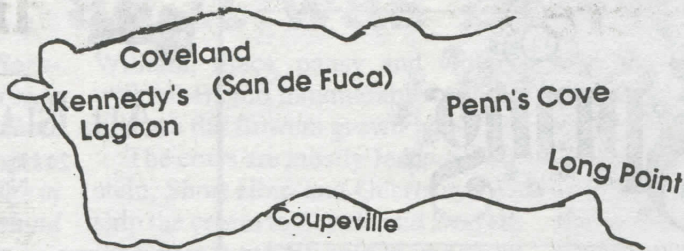
Homemade Breads and Pies
Soups, Salads and
Cinnamon Rolls

Made Fresh Daily

678-5431

On the Water Under Front Street, Coupeville

Coveland, settlement of sea captains



Also at the head of Penn Cove lies Whidbey Island's first trading post site, and a popular early day harbor, Coveland. Captain Benjamin Barstow opened the first trading post in 1853 on the point that bears his name where now the Captain Whidbey Inn is located. For this early day commercial venture Captain Barstow gave up the sea.

In March of 1852 Captain Richard B. Holbrook, along with Captain Eli Hathaway sailed into Penn's Cove from Port Townsend, and Captain Holbrook homesteaded 160 acres in the center of what is now San de Fuca, and which in the 1880s became a "boom town."

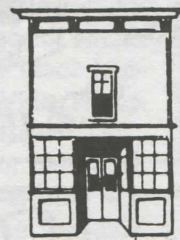
Holbrook and Hathaway had opened a trading post on the mainland across from the southern point of Lummi Island. They invested \$1,300 each to stock their store, but were burned out by the Haidah Indians and barely escaped with their lives. Coming back to Penn's Cove, Holbrook built the house that stands just above the dock at San de Fuca.

Coveland was a popular harbor. The first county courthouse (still

standing) was built at the head of the cove. The county seat was later moved to Coupeville. A small tidewater mill was located at the point where the waters of today's Kennedy's Lagoon run in and out, complete with water wheel turned by the tidewaters. Several mills were built in the area, as settlers came and began clearing land for farming.

Captain Holbrook served two terms in the Territorial Legislature, and was

assistant Indian Agent under Captain Fay in 1857. He was a great lobbyist for the territory. At the time when Island County was made up of today's Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish and Island counties, the Captain was county treasurer. He kept the funds in a sugar bowl in the china closet of his log cabin home, which caused him some worry, and when he was offered the post of Territorial Treasurer, he refused.



Coupeville's Old Town Shop

2 Front Street

Unique Gifts
Nautical Cards
Country Gifts
Original Art

Closed Mondays

Judy King

Custom Stained Glass



I&I
GLASS
DESIGNERS

No. 5 Front St.
Coupeville

Sun Catchers
Mt. St. Helens Ash
Vases
Ornaments
Handcrafted Gifts
Wooden Things
Unique Gifts
And More

678-3453

The Tyee Restaurant

Prairie Center's
Historic Old Cafe

Hours: 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays
Friday & Saturday evenings 'til 9 p.m.

405 S. Main, Coupeville

678-6616



Saratoga, as it was in 1914

In April of 1914, the pupils of Saratoga School, located on the east side of Whidbey Island, wrote about their community. This group effort provides an interesting insight into life in a very small town on Whidbey Island in the early years of the century.

Saratoga is located on Whidbey Island, on the Saratoga Passage. It is 38 miles from Seattle, the chief city of shipping products; 12 miles northwest of Everett, another city where its products are shipped; 15 miles southeast of Coupeville, the county seat; 5 miles northwest of Langley.

The average height of Saratoga is 100 feet above sea level. The surface is rolling. The soil consists of sandy loam about 2 feet deep, and clay for subsoil. There are few stones.

Saratoga is surrounded by heavy woods which protect it from the winds. The average rainfall per year is 22 inches. In summer it often gets as hot as 75 degrees but it is more often lower, while in winter the average is 38 degrees.

There are about 100 people in Saratoga. We have a post office, store, school and dock. Mr. Maule owns the store and attends to the post office. Clinton Freestone is the wharfinger. We have six children going to school.

Nearly everyone in Saratoga does a little farming. The principle vegetables are potatoes, beans, cabbage, tomatoes, peas, rhubarb, cucumbers, onions, carrots and celery. Nearly all these vegetables are used for the table or cattle. Some, as potatoes and cabbage are sent away.

From the orchards the principle fruit are apples, plums, prunes, pears, cherries and crab apples. The berries that we raise are strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, blackberries and loganberries berries.

Oats, wheat, clover, timothy, vetch and cowpeas are used for hay and chicken feed. Roses, asters, sweet peas, rhododendron, peony, sweet

William, lilacs, pansy and violets, with others too innumerable to mention are the flowers grown here.

The cows are mostly Jerseys, Holstein, Short Horn and Guernsey. We ship the cream to Seattle and Everett; the butter is mostly sold in our home town. We send veal and beef to Seattle and Everett, where we get the best prices. Since dairying is important here, hogs are also important because they thrive well on milk. They can also eat up the garden vegetables and keep the ground free from ferns. The chief kinds are Chester White, Dorac Jersey Red, Poland China and Hampshire. Their meat is sent to Everett and Seattle while the lard is kept for home use.

Chickens and ducks are important on farms and dairies because they can be kept without much expense. The grain can be raised and they also keep insects and worms out of the ground. The most important breeds of chickens are white, brown and black Leghorns, Plymouth Rock, White Wyandotte and Rhode Island Reds.

They are important for their eggs and meat is shipped to Everett and Seattle. The most important breeds of ducks are Pekin and Indian Runner.

Saratoga is noted for its social gatherings. The chief means of entertainment is the Saratoga Evergreen Grange, U and I Club, whist parties, clam bakes and dances. Most of which are held at the City Hall.


We have beautiful scenery all about us. The woods have many kinds of

different trees and flowers with other curiosities and beauties. Just before us lies the pretty water of Saratoga Passage, where everyone can enjoy a boat ride. When looking to the east the grand range of mountains called Cascades can be seen. To the north Mount Baker, a noted snow-capped mountain; Everett, a large city southeast of us; Langley, Camano Island and Hat Island can all be viewed from our homes.

One need of our community is good roads which all of us hope will soon be given. A good dock is needed but this need is nearly fulfilled, for the Grangers are working on it. The dairy cows, hogs and chickens are being improved and full blooded stock is being brought in.

The school has no well and fence and everybody here is trying to get one. Tile drainage should be adopted as it would improve the land and it would regulate the water better. A silo is also needed for much hay is spoiled by the rain.

The people of Saratoga should stick together better in business. Fifty men can do more than two.

There are about 98 acres of cultivated land from which the people raise the food for winter. There are about 1,625 acres of raw land of which a great deal is sowed with timothy and clover for feed for cows and horses. Located in this district are about 287 acres of timber land. Average price for the land per acre is \$75. The district is worth \$150,750. 



The MEIN INGREDIENT

OPEN 6 DAYS PER WEEK
4:30 P.M. TO 8 P.M.

COME IN AND CHECK OUR DAILY SPECIALS

OR CALL 675-5157 TO ORDER

SENIOR DISCOUNT

Muddy streets needed boardwalks

The first sidewalk in Oak Harbor was made of wooden planks purchased from Lovejoy's in Coupeville for six dollars a thousand feet. The new sidewalk extended from the head of Maylor's dock to the H. T. Hill store building, which still stands in 1992 as Masten's Variety.


When one considers the "streets" of those early days, before blacktopping or paving were popular, one might come to the conclusion that the women of the community got fed up with wading through mud in winter to get from store to store. At any rate, since the little town was growing, and had just dedicated a new bank building, it seemed logical to build a sidewalk. Within a few years the Ladies Improvement Club, heartened by their success, raised enough money with

bake sales and programs to build a concrete sidewalk on the opposite side of the street. The street itself remained to be graded regularly until after the Navy arrived, when it was paved.

The Ladies Improvement Club, again flushed with success over their first concrete sidewalk, undertook to build a sidewalk from town up the hill to what is today 700 Ave. East, where the new school was located. The school was a popular place for programs, ball games and other school related activities, and townspeople could walk the seven blocks to the school over that modern innovation called a sidewalk!

At that time the "downtown" portion of Oak Harbor extended from the Farm Bureau News building on the


east (where today is Smiley's) two blocks east to the meat market. In between were Maylor's Store, H. T. Hill, Farmer's Cooperative, a bakery, dentist and doctor's offices, a furniture store, women's clothing store, plumbing shop, the Fakkema garage, Judson garage, a photographer, variety store and restaurant.

Later the Red and White Store, a movie theater, a tavern, the Columbia Lumber Co. another drugstore, a new bank, a children's store, the Casual House and Chuck Dann's sportswear entered the four block long "downtown." The town was growing. 

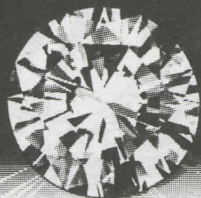


1927 piano recital

A piano recital by students of Mrs. Pearl Klang of Mount Vernon was held at the Oak Harbor High School on May 23, 1927 at 8:15 p.m. Mrs. Klang came every two weeks to Oak Harbor via ferry to teach her young charges.

The recital program read: Songs of the Blacksmith, by Alma Byrnes and Lawrence Dykers; Whirligig and Puss In Boots, Marguerite Burrier; Sweet Violets, Gladys Teach; Poor Little Robin and Little Boy Blue, Patty Burrier; The Bears, Hudson Benner, Jr.; The Lily, Mabel Tesch; Toy Soldier, Tom Burrier; March, Blandon Izett; The Soldiers, and Little Prince, Herman Benner; It's Twilight and The Return, Beth Zylstra; Duet: In Hanging Gardens, Althea Benner and Mrs. Klang; Happy Hours, Barbara Dykers; Dying Poet, Martha Dykers; You Can't Guess What He Wrote on My Slate, Gertrude Dykers; A Pirate Ship, Howard Fisher; Welsh Lullaby, Dorothy Olson; Heavenward, Ruth Galbraith; Minuet in G, Ruth and Helen Galbraith; Polka and The Mockingbird, Helen Galbraith 

OWN A MASTERPIECE



IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

Every woman dreams of having a diamond of a carat or more. If you would like to change your lady's dreams to reality, let's talk. You will both be proud.

MEMBER WORLD'S LARGEST BUYING GROUP • INDEPENDENT JEWELERS ORGANIZATION

MASTER  JEWELER™



Gerald's Jewelry



1501 Midway Blvd.
Oak Harbor, Washington 98277 • 675-4500

Often Copied - But Not Quite As Well



Banker Rogers (in hat) gets into the act of building Oak Harbor's first boardwalk.

Island SEWING & VACUUM

SALES - SERVICE - PARTS
AUTHORIZED DEALER

**RICCAR • PANASONIC
EUREKA**

NEW & USED MACHINES
OF MANY MAKES

REPAIRS ALL MAKES
ALSO CEILING FANS



OAK HARBOR

679-2282

1326 MIDWAY BLVD.

Representing the **FINEST** Publishers
in **WILDLIFE AND WESTERN ART**



**WOODLANDS WILDLIFE
GALLERY**

1416 Midway Blvd. 675-4475 Mon.-Sat. 10-5