

DESTINATION Key Peninsula

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YOUR COMPLETE
GUIDE TO DINING,
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CAMPING,
BOATING AND
FISHING.

FREE *** SUMMER 1995 *** PUBLISHED BY THE KEY PENINSULA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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Members of the Key Peninsula Business
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ON THE COVER

LONGBRANCH
MARINA ON BEAUTIFUL
FILUCY BAY WITH A
MT. RAINIER VIEW

PHOTO BY CRICKET STEPHENSON

Community History

The Key Peninsula area was first settled by W. D. Vaughn who in 1851 crossed the plains in a prairie schooner to file a homestead claim and founded the town of Vaughn. He was followed by other pioneers who saw the promise of this beautiful area, including settler Joe Shettlerow and George H. Allen. Shettlerow settled in the Longbranch area in 1858 and Shettlerow Bay was named for him. Some years later the name was changed to Filucy Bay.

As the trek to the West continued, additional communities were established on the Peninsula. "Lakebay" was named by the William Creviston family in 1871 and it was here that the first post office on the Peninsula was established in 1882. "Home" was originally called the "Mutual Home Association" and was founded in 1896.

Logging, sawmills and farming were the industries of the Key Peninsula in those early years. Transportation was provided by the "Mosquito Fleet," a group of small walk-on ferries and supply boats that plied the waters between the little settlements and Tacoma. In later years ferries from the Tacoma area docked near Gig Harbor, and these ferry boats provided major traffic connections until the building of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge.

Members of the local Historical Society have written many of the articles you will find on the pages of Destination Key Peninsula. We hope you enjoy them.

Community Facilities

The Key Peninsula Civic Center is the site of many local events. The original building was constructed in 1906 and major additions were completed in the "30's" by the WPA. It was the old Vaughn Union High School and was bought in 1956 for \$8,100 by community members. It is used by many local clubs and organizations. Some of the events held there are dances, Reno Nights, Spaghetti feeds, the Christmas Bazaar, Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween Party, etc. On-going events are Bingo every Wednesday night and skating every Friday night.

Community House just south of Home houses the Senior Services and the local food bank. Programs include a weekly hot lunch for Senior Citizens, a monthly breakfast for the entire community, and Sunday midday meals. Workers have recently completed a major kitchen remodel.

The Longbranch Improvement Club gives lots of enjoyment to the area with dances held on several weekends during the summer. Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day are among the usual "dance dates."

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KEY PENINSULA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

The purpose of the Museum is to discover, collect and preserve artifacts to establish or illustrate the history of this area; its exploration, settlement, development and activities. Promoting interest in the past, the museum covers peace and war.

Members gather, organize and preserve printed, written and photographic materials. Oral histories and objects which illustrate the life, conditions, events and activities of the Key Peninsula are available to all who wish to examine or study them. The Museum is housed at the Vaughn Civic Center in a room that once was the Key Peninsula branch of the Pierce County Library and before that the library and Principal's office of Vaughn High School.

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Hops

By Donald R. Jopp

Little remembered is an industry which flourished in Longbranch during the early part of the 1900's, that being the raising of hope.

An early settler, name unknown, had a large farm situated near the present Longbranch Fire Station, of which some thirty acres were planted in hops. On the upper edge of the field stood the hop house, perhaps three stories high, in which the hops were dried before shipment.

For a time this was a thriving industry, employing many Indians from Filucy Bay, Whitman's Cove, and possibly Squaxim Island and Allyn. I remember, as a boy, that in later years when hop raising was abandoned, seeing great stacks of hand split cedar hop poles piled all along the fence line. The hope house was torn down in the mid-twenties by Gilbert Floberg who transported the lumber by horse-drawn wagon to a site across the highway where he built a home. In the early forties the property was sold to the Pudge family and thereafter passed through several hands. A gambrel roofed barn at the rear of the property is also still standing.

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Key Peninsula Civic Center

History by Dulcie Schillinger

The recent history of the Civic Center as we know it began with the passing of a school bond issue to construct the new Vaughn Elementary School March 26, 1954. On February 3, 1955 The Peninsula School Board took action to dispose of unused school buildings. Vaughn was not one of them at this time but this put the wheels in motion.

August 5, 1955 an appraisal value of \$9,325.00 was placed on the buildings and property of the Vaughn Grade School. The district was instructed that they could not accept less than 90% of that value paid in cash. Interested communities were advised that they would have first chance to purchase the abandoned facilities, if no interest was shown they would be put out for public bid.

September 1955 a hurried meeting was called at the Glencove Hall. Interested community residents discussed the feasibility of purchasing the Vaughn School and making it into a community center. A vote was taken and it was decided that a try should be made. A name was proposed for the group, a slate of officers was nominated and methods of funding were considered. A group was selected to attend the School Board meeting on October 3 to express the desires of the community.

November 11, 1955 the Peninsula Gateway reported a mass meeting held at the Vaughn School to gather support for the purchase of the Vaughn School building. The price quoted was \$8100 cash, of which a substantial portion would have to be pledged by the November 16 School Board meeting. A November 18, 1955 Article tells about the fund drive and the additional time granted for funding. The December 30, 1955 Gateway reported that pledges now totaled \$6,170 and a new appraisal was ordered due to the water rights issue.

April 18, 1956 the Peninsula School Board had the legal papers drawn up and ready for signing over to the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association.

June 23, 1956 a final work party was called to put the finishing touches of months of work in rejuvenating the building. Cleaning and painting, a speaker system, a barbecue pit in the front lawn, cleaning and set-up of a workable kitchen and too many details to mention were accomplished so that a dedication dinner/dance could take place. We hauled tables, chairs, table settings from every community hall and church who would loan them.

June 30, 1956 Mrs. E.L. Reynolds of Rocky Bay chaired the formal Dedication Dinner/Dance at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. E.L. (Tiny) Reynolds and R.C. (Buck) Buckell barbecued over 700 chickens on the outside pit while Ralph Tatchell (Bob) fixed 4 garbage cans of coleslaw and got the garlic bread ready. Pies were donated from every possible household and people were drafted to wait tables. Over 700 people were well fed along with special dignitaries and

guests. Included were: Wash. St. Att. Gen. Don & Mrs. Eastvold, Ass. Att. Gen. Lloyd Baker, County Comm.'s Ray Sabin, Fritz Geiger, Harry Sprinker and spouses.

During the ensuing years there was one fund raiser after another held to fund the repair of the boiler, to re-roof the Gym, resurface the Gym floor, buy equipment for the kitchen, tear out the partition between classrooms #4 and #6 to form the Rose Room (Oct. 13 & 14 of 1956) and build tables. The stage needed drapes, the tennis court needed back stops and nets and lines. We built a little league ball field (the new Vaughn Elementary now occupied the community ball field we had used for 50 years).

May 24, 1957 a card party called "Operation Drapes" was held. June 15, 1957 the first Annual Dinner/Dance Fund Raiser was held and attended by Sen. Henry M. Jackson and Wash. St. Rep. John Petrich. Gig Harbor Mayor Merrill Parrish, Pierce County Rd. Super. Ras Paulson, the county commissioners from the year before and a huge number of local office holders were there along with the rest of us to see Henry M.

The community had been pretty well taped out for donations in the purchase price of the center so just to pay the light bills, heating bills and everyday expenses made it imperative that we hold fund raisers all year round. Fortunately April 1957, the Vaughn Library Association deemed it wise to sell the Vaughn Library Hall and bought a trusteeship in the Center and moved the Library to one of the rooms in the old school building. Funds from the sale of the Glencove Hall in September, 1957 were used to buy a trusteeship in the center, the VFW Post also had a room in the old school building.

August 25, 1957 the 1st Annual Salmon Derby was held at the Center. Skating was not allowed due to the effect it had on the gym floor finish and the kind of slip material used for dances had to be carefully monitored and removed before the PAA Basketball Teams could practice and play their games. The community worked hard to afford this great place for all to meet. Some organizations paid rent, others like the Boy and Girl Scouts did not because it was important that this facility was really for the children as well as the adult clubs that could afford a fee. Fees were held to a minimum, outside rentals were higher.

Our many volunteers saw to it that the place was picked-up, cleaned-up and painted. The first caretaker, John Paul Jones did not live on site and his wages if any were small. When the center was more stable financially we hired Ed Smith as caretaker. He agreed to a very low wage along with housing provided on the lower floor of the old high school building.

The early history of survival was based on the generosity of the people living in the community who worked week after week, year after year. Their names are mostly forgotten and lost in the records but they were the same people listed on the pledge list of funds raised. They were the same people who coached the Baseball and Basketball teams, were the Scout masters, Grangers, Veterans and Cootiettes. They were from all over the Peninsula. No one of them was anymore responsible than any of the rest because it was a total group effort and the one thing the center had to maintain in order to continue to support itself was that feeling of unity.

Fishing and Boating

Fishing and boating are both great summer activities. With a shoreline of approximately fifty miles on the Key Peninsula, there is plenty of space for either activity. There are five public boat launches to the sound, located at Wauna, Vaughn Bay, Home, Joemma State Park and Longbranch. There are two marinas located at Lakebay and Longbranch that provide tie-up and boat services.

Free Fishing Weekend

Free Fishing Weekend is in June this year. No license is required of anyone, resident or nonresident, to fish in Washington on these days. Catch record cards are still required for steelhead, salmon, halibut, and sturgeon.

Minter Creek Hatchery

The Washington State Hatchery at Minter Creek raises 4 million Coho salmon each year. About 1-1/2 million of them are released from that facility and the remainder are released from other areas. In addition, Chinook, Chum and Pink fingerlings are raised. The facility recently completed a major remodeling and is open to the public. Hours are 8am to 4:30pm each day.

Key Peninsula Civic Center

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Parks and Paddling

The Key Peninsula is like being surrounded by a playground. The geography of the area is marked with waterways, with currents ranging from sleepy to swift. Those who love to rowboat will find a dozen or so sheltered coves and bays on both side of the key Peninsula.

KEY PENINSULA VOLUNTEER PARK is a family recreation area, 2-1/2 miles south of Key Center. The park has approximately 10 acres of multi-purpose field. Families can enjoy several activities that take place between 10 AM and 10 PM. Bring your own equipment and enjoy the spacious athletic facilities. Food and refreshments are available.

PENROSE STATE PARK is located east of Key Peninsula Highway South. Travel about a mile south from Home and watch for the signs. Penrose has facilities for weekend camping, swimming, fishing, clam digging, boating and hiking. Tables and an open play field are perfect for picnicking. Showers and lavatories are available. If you like serenity and interesting hiking trails, try Penrose.

PURDY SANDSPIT is the half-mile-long stretch of roadway between Purdy and Wauna. Located at the head of Henderson Bay, it offers some of the best wind conditions and wave action in the Northwest. With water on either side, it attracts sightseers and beach enthusiasts. Activities such as clamming and water skiing thrive, and people flock to soak up a few rays. When the wind picks up the windsurfers have a ball. This inlet has a statewide reputation as a prime spot for windsurfing. The Purdy Windsurfing Association offers daily updates on their hotline at 588-5328. Waterskiers take advantage of Henderson Bay and the easy access from the boat ramp at Wauna.

JOEMMA STATE PARK is a premier site for beach combing. Joemma has overnight camping in the summer, bathroom facilities, nature trails, a boat launch and a fabulous dock with floats and limited slips. This 170 acre park, formerly known as the Robert F. Kennedy Recreation Area has some campsites with a beautiful water view. Excellent fishing is available. Take Whitman Road west off Key Peninsula Highway South, about two miles south of Home.

HORSESHOE LAKE is a calm lake, and with the warm weather it's a pleasant daytime resort for kids and adults alike. Horseshoe Lake has grassy areas for picnicking, playing ball or baseball. Children can enjoy the small sandspit with swings and slides, while teenagers prefer swimming and tanning on the beach area. From the Purdy Bridge, follow Highway 302 to the corner of 94th, turn right, then drive for about a mile until you reach the park's gates on the right. A slight admission is charged.

VAUGHN BAY, with a boat ramp located on the North shore, is a favorite entry place for small boats. This sheltered bay is great for the young sailor. Private fireworks displays draw quite a crowd on the 4th of July.

PADDLING SPOTS: Whitman's cove on the Key Peninsula is a favorite spot. Try stopping in on McMicken or Herron Islands. The deer population is numerous and they are very friendly.

Red Tide

Shellfish such as oysters, clams, shrimp, and crab are in their prime in the spring during daytime low tides on the Puget Sound beaches. "Red tides" of naturally-occurring marine toxins have made some shellfish inedible, so there may be emergency closures of some beaches. Check the shellfish hotline, 1-800-562-5632 for current information.



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The Longbranch Mercantile

by Addie McMenamin

(From the writings of Father Thaddaeus Arledge on the early days of Longbranch.)

THE LONGBRANCH MERCANTILE is the only remaining Key Peninsula store that grew out of the grocery boat era of sternwheelers and side-wheelers on Puget Sound. During the late 1880s, groceries and merchandise were brought and displayed aboard several boats which were a part of the "Mosquito Fleet" of the day. Grocery boats anchored in bays or near shoreline settlements, sometimes on a regular schedule. Settlers came aboard and bartered their farm produce for needed commodities. Longbranch was one of the regular stops.

In 1891, Ernest Shellgren, a Swedish immigrant who had been transporting groceries to the Peninsula with his small boat, bought waterfront acreage where Longbranch now stands. He also took farm produce from the Peninsula and adjoining islands back to Tacoma. In an agreement with Edward S. Yeazell, who had platted the small peninsula on the southeast shore of Filucy Bay as the City of Long Branch in 1890, Shellgren submitted the name of Long Branch to the U.S. Post Office as the official name for the local post office. He delivered mail from his boat for six months without charge until the name was approved and he was officially appointed postmaster.

In 1893, during an economic depression, Shellgren bought a new 100-foot sternwheeler, the *Monte Cristo*, with which he brought supplies to his Long Branch store. While his wife, Augusta, tended the store, he also carried freight and mail services to other settlements on the Peninsula. In 1894, because the mail for Long Branch (two words) was sometimes confused with the mail for Long Beach, Washington, the U.S. Post Office changed the official name to Longbranch.

In 1896 Shellgren joined those going to the Klondike in search of gold. Morris J. Bullis sold his store in Allyn and bought Shellgren's Longbranch store. He built a false-front store opposite the Shellgren home on the shoreline. He equipped the new store with display windows, and display counters with sliding doors. While Shellgren was away, the post office was moved into the Bullis store and Morris Bullis became the postmaster. The store changed ownership several times over the next fourteen years, and with each change, the new owner became the postmaster. In 1906, owner Harry V. Meyer built an adjoining warehouse where local dances were sometimes held.

The partnership of Horn and Holmes bought the store in 1910, and proceeded to build a larger building on concrete pilings over the shoreline. They hired the brothers Axel and Pete Peterson to manage the store and Pete served as postmaster from 1910 to 1913.

The post office was removed from the store in 1913, when Ernest Shellgren again became postmaster and operated the post office on his own property. When Shellgren's ill health forced him to retire, his daughter, Ellen, became postmistress, a position she held from 1923 until 1962.

In 1919 Horn and Holmes sold the store to the Southwell Brothers, who hired Carl Soderquist to manage it for them. During this time the store started using the name of Longbranch Mercantile. Within the next few years the county dock was built, and ferry service from Steilacoom to Longbranch began in 1922. The arrival of automobiles created the need for an expanded roadway and parking area in front of the store. Carl Soderquist eventually bought the store and served the community for many years. When the shoreline bank began to slide into the bay, the Wyatt Hotel was moved above the road, where in recent years it was known as the Chowder House.

Bill and Mae Otto built the Maple Leaf Tavern on higher ground in 1934. Tavern customers also wanted groceries, so the Ottos started selling a few staples. In 1937 Bill Otto closed the Maple Leaf Tavern and opened Otto's Grocery. When the building that housed the Longbranch Mercantile began to deteriorate in the early 1940s, Carl and Ruth Soderquist leased Otto's Grocery and it became the Longbranch Mercantile in 1942. Because of ill health, Carl Soderquist asked William and Mae Otto to take back the store in 1945, so the Ottos once again ran the store. They lowered the roof of the Wyatt hotel by six feet and remodeled the building, making it into their home. The Ottos also purchased the old deteriorating Longbranch Mercantile building by the dock and tore it down around 1947, because it was an eyesore and cut off their view.

In 1948 the Ottos leased the store to Paul Shaefer and Roy Paine. Then in 1950 the brothers Lyle and Henry Paul leased the store from the Ottos and added an ice cream parlor and pharmacy. People drove from all over the peninsula to get an ice cream cone or a soda. In 1955 Richard and Marjorie (Otto) Hall bought the store. Because Rich was a butcher, he cut and wrapped locker meat for their customers.

When Ellen Shellgren retired from her position as postmistress in 1962, the post office moved into the Mercantile, and each succeeding owner of the Mercantile became the postmaster. The post office was there until the early 1980s, when it was consolidated with the Lakebay post office in Home.

Ownership of the Longbranch mercantile has changed six times over the past twenty-five years. Since 1987 the owners have been Jack and Beverly Pederson, with Ann Dearing as manager. A special feature of their years has been the hundreds of barbecued chicken dinners, prepared outdoors on each of the major holiday weekends.

While many things have changed over the years, one thing remains the same—the spectacular view from the Longbranch Mercantile, which includes the Longbranch Marina, beautiful Filucy Bay, and Mount Rainier dominating the space between McNeil and Anderson Islands. (Special tip: From that site the August full moon rises directly over Mount Rainier and is reflected in the water of the bay. The house immediately south of the marina's parking lot was the Ernest Shellgren home.)



The Longbranch Mercantile: The only remaining Key Peninsula store that grew out of the grocery boat era of sternwheelers and side-wheelers. There is a spectacular view from the Longbranch Mercantile.

The Mosquito Fleet Steamboats

IN THE LATE 1800s, AS MORE AND MORE pioneers were moving to Puget Sound, boats became the means of transportation to and from the cities. There were no roads, just trails through the woods.

Carl Lorenz brought his family to Lakebay from Germany via Orting, where a flood washed their home away in 1876. They started a sawmill at the head of Lakebay near a small creek that drained Bay Lake. A moveable gate controlled the flow of water to the large water wheel that ran the sawmill.

With a successful mill but a limited market, Lorenz and his sons Edward and Otto built a scow to carry their lumber. Because of their generosity in carrying neighbors on their business trips to Tacoma, they found themselves forced into the steamboat business. During the winter of 1883 the *Sophia* was built. She was named after Carl's wife. After the *Sophia* came the *Meta*, named for the Lorenz daughter, then the *Typhoon I*, *Tyconda*, *Tyrus*, *Typhoon II*, *Mohawk*, *Monticello*, and *Narada*.

In 1918, Capt. Bert Berntson joined Capt. Ed Lorenz in the business. They bought the *Thurrow* and *Sentinel*, and in 1928 they built the *Arcadia*. Lorenz-Berntson Company boats made the round trip from Lakebay to Tacoma daily until 1942. They transported freight and passengers, and they also had the mail franchise. They made 15 landings a day to way points along the Hales Pass-Carr Inlet run.

Capt. Ed died in 1941, and in 1942 Capt. Berntson sold the *Arcadia* and retired for a while, but he came back to the water with the purchase of the *Burrow*. He served the two Co-ops at Gig Harbor and Lakebay for a few years until 1947. The *Burrow* was the last of the Mosquito Fleet steamboats.

Home School

by Sylvia E. Retherford (Stella)

THE FIRST SCHOOL IN HOME WAS established by the settlers in 1896, the year they arrived.

A hasty shack was put up near the waterfront to accommodate the ten children who came with the three original families.

Home grew rapidly and Liberty Hall, built in 1899, included two school rooms and a library.

In 1905 a new two-room school was built in front of Liberty Hall on 6th and C Streets. This building has become a private home. Its belfry and bell are gone and some interior changes have been made, but some of the woodwork still bears initials of "naughty" students who carved them there. The "cloak room" where students were isolated to "think it over," was a favored place to leave one's mark.

In the early days of Home, students could go from first grade to high school graduation in this building. The four Allen girls, of whom my mother was one, did this and went on to college in Bellingham. George and Sylvia Allen planned the building, and the community built it. The Allens were the first two teachers. The school board was made up of community members.

I started first grade there in 1923. My teacher, Miss Beckstrom, from Fox Island boarded with my family during the school year. I walked up the hill from the waterfront with her each morning.

To reach Home School from the Key Peninsula Highway, turn up the hill on 6th Street beside the Home Fire Station. The school is on your left just over the hilltop.

Home School is a County, State and National Historic Landmark.

Home Community Center aka School District #315

by Lucille (Lehman) Daniel and Evelyn (Dadisman) Evans

As six year olds, we started our school years at Lakebay where the Community Church now stands. Mrs. Marshall was the teacher of all six elementary grades (in one room). So the lower grades couldn't help but absorb some of the learning from the older kids.

At that time the new District 315 school was being constructed directly across the road from where the Lehman family lived, on the site of the present Community Center. Lucille's Mother "witched" for the water for the well which is still in use (since 1928!). During the construction there were accidents — one of which a construction worker "peeked" to investigate why a dynamite charge failed to detonate -- blam! it did, right in his face. Another time, a huge stump sailed across the Longbranch road and landed 20 feet from our living room windows. My Dad threw a rope around it and towed it away. The school opened in September, 1928 when we started second grade. This school had three rooms and a basement to play in when the weather was bad and a baseball diamond for when the weather was good. There were two classrooms each with four grades to a room. The third room had a stage and seating space for students and parents when attending programs, PTA meetings, and graduation exercises. The third room was also an indoor place to eat lunches, do projects, and for storage space.

At the end of the school year the Lehman family moved to California. We briefly returned several years later and I graduated from the eighth grade with six others one of whom was my cousin, Evelyn. From here I will let Evelyn complete the history of our little school that eventually became the Community Center.

Miss Berg was our first teacher in the lower grades. Miss Berg was courted by a local Longbranch merchant, Mr. Soderquist. During that courtship, some of us noticed a car parked on the school grounds after school and we became very curious when shades were drawn on that side of the building. Later they were married. We all loved Miss Merg's sweet ways. She was a good teacher.

For the most part we walked to school. But, Harry Edmonds rigged a truck with a covered bed and benches for seating. In the winter the canvas shades were lowered. In nice weather they were rolled up. That was a service that was much appreciated. But, I remember having to run to meet the bus schedule when Mr. Edmonds stopped to pick us up.

A Russian gentleman who came to this country and lived with his brother not far from school, was allowed to sit in a front seat of our upper grade classroom. He came to learn English and read aloud along with the rest of us. He was courtly in his black suit with tails and white shirt and always bowed to the teacher upon entering and leaving the classroom.

The only part I didn't like about school was being chosen last on the softball team. It was understandable, I was afraid to catch a fly ball and couldn't hit worth a hoot. But I could run.

Fishing Licenses

The Washington Department of Fisheries issues two recreational licenses: Personal Use Foodfish and Personal Use Shellfish/Seaweed

The first type allows you to fish for marine fish, bottom fish, halibut, salmon and sturgeon. Catch record cards are required when fishing for halibut in Puget Sound, for salmon in fresh or salt water, and for sturgeon in some places. Anglers fishing in Puget Sound must also purchase a Recreational Fisheries Enhancement Stamp for \$10.

The Personal Use Shellfish/Seaweed License is required to harvest clams, crab, oysters, mussels, crayfish, shrimp, squid, octopus, sea cucumbers, sea urchins, scallops, abalone and seaweed.

Fees vary from free to \$20. Licenses are not required of children fourteen and under.

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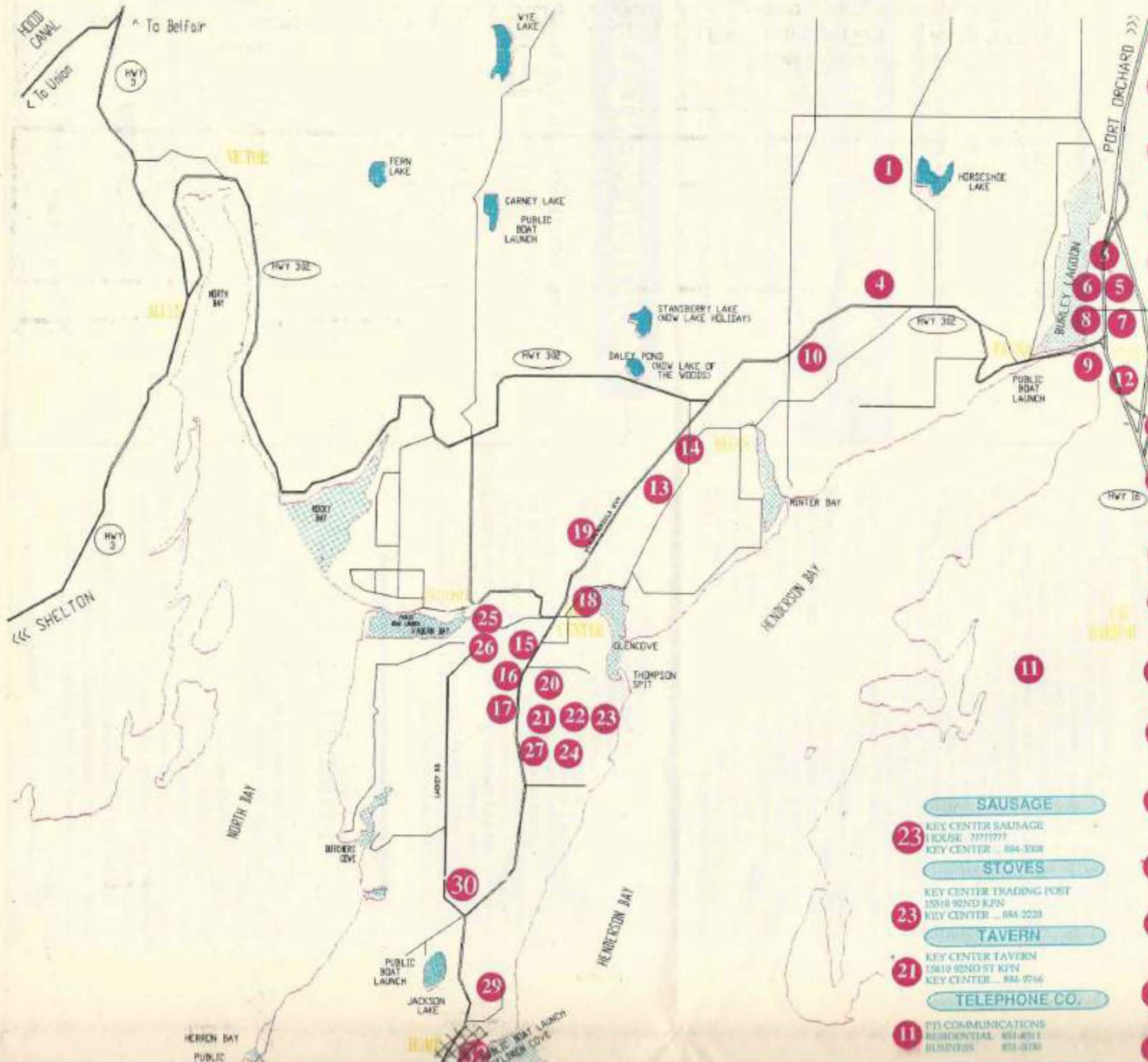
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Local Events 1995

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Dinner Matinee at Longbranch Improvement Club	June 10
Volunteer Appreciation Potluck at Vaughn Civic Center	June 23
Old Timers and Historical Society Potluck at Longbranch Improvement Club	June 25
July Fourth Dance at Longbranch Improvement Club	July 1
Lion's Club Volkswalk -- Bay Lake	July 8-9
Fireman's Muster at Volunteer Park	July 15-16
Potluck Picnic and games at Longbranch Improvement Club Sponsor: Key Peninsula Community Services Food Bank	July 25
Pioneer Days & Parade -- Vaughn Civic Center	Aug. 5
Old Timers Day at Longbranch Improvement Club	Aug. 19
Fire Fighters Ball -- Vaughn Civic Center	Aug. 26
Labor Day Dance -- Longbranch Improvement Club	Sept. 2
Flavor of Fall Dinner & Auction -- Vaughn Civic Center	Sept. 30
Halloween Party -- Vaughn Civic Center	Oct. 31
Cider Fest in Downtown Key Center	Oct. 14
Reno Night -- Vaughn Civic Center	Nov. 4
Christmas Festival Vaughn Civic Center	Nov. 25
Christmas Tree Lighting Key Center Corral	Dec. 3

1996 Events

1940's dance--"Juke Box Sat. Night" --Civic Center	Jan 27
Citizen of the Year Dinner at Vaughn Civic Center	Feb 24
Reno Night -- Civic Center	Mar 4

Angel Guild History

By Annabelle Evans *** The seeds of the present Angel Guild and its thrift shop were sewn in the 1970s. Nurse practitioner Jean Broadsack enlisted the help of seven Key Peninsula women in collecting used clothing in the basement of the Longbranch Church to help those persons from the community who were in need.

Although the name "Angel Guild" was adopted in 1978, it wasn't until 1980 that the name "Angel Guild Thrift Shop" became officially registered with the Washington State Department of Revenue. It wasn't until 1993 that the Angel Guild was officially recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt, non-profit organization.

In March, 1978 the women moved their operations to a small cabin at Home owned by Nancy Nash and added items other than clothing, sold them, and used the proceeds to help support the health Clinic at Key Center.

When the location at Home was no longer available, Don and Shirl Olson offered a site on their property in Key Center next to the Sakura Nursery. A building was located in Parkland and donated to the Guild. Rhys Wood donated the use of his flatbed truck to move it; Fred Ramsdell provided the highway escort, while Jim Blundell, Don Olson and Angel Guild members prepared the building. The official opening was held on July 28, 1980.

In 1983 the Olsons needed the use of their property for expansion of the nursery, so the Angel Guild moved the little building to the back of the K. C. Corral and rented a space in the Corral for their shop. The building in the back became the storage shed for use in sorting and storing donations. Oct. 6, 1983 was moving day.

In 1983 another building (also donated to us) was moved to the back and joined with the other building to provide a larger storage area.

Improvements to the interior of the storage building were made in 1992, and current plans call for renovations to the shop.

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Fishing Holes

BENSON LAKE: Expect fair fishing for 9 to 11 inch cutthroat and rainbows on this 82 acre lake. There is a state access with boat launch and two toilets. Benson is located 9 miles southwest of Belfair.

CARNEY LAKE: Carney Lake (39 acres) is located 4 miles north of Vaughn on the Kitsap-Pierce County line. Carney is stocked primarily with rainbow trout. It has a public access with toilet facilities.

DEER LAKE: Deer Lake, also known as Seymour Lake is 10 miles northeast of Shelton. Expect fair fishing for rainbows up to 13 inches on this 90 acre lake.

DEVEREAUX LAKE: This 94 acre lake is located 1 1/2 miles northwest of Allyn. Expect fair to good spring fishing for planted legal-size rainbows with carry-overs sometimes reaching 5 pounds. It has a state access with boat launch and two toilets. It is also good for kokanee as the water warms.

FLORENCE LAKE: Florence Lake (42 acres) is stocked with largemouth bass, bluegill and brown trout. There is an undeveloped boat ramp in the county park on the north shore of this lake on Anderson Island.

HAVEN LAKE: This 69 acre lake is found 7 miles west of Belfair and is good to excellent for rainbows up to a foot long and cutthroat. State access with one toilet.

HORSESHOE LAKE: Expect fair fishing for 7 to 9 inch rainbows on this 40 acres lake 9 miles south of Port Orchard or about 2 miles north of Highway 302 on 94th Ave NW. There is a state access with two toilets.

MASON LAKE: The best fishing in this 995 acre lake is for kokanee during the summer. Largemouth bass, yellow perch, and brown bullheads are also available. Mason Lake is about 8 miles southwest of Belfair.

PANTHER LAKE: Panther (100 acres) is about 10 miles west of Bremerton and should provide fair fishing for rainbows under a foot long.

PHILLIPS LAKE: This 111 acre lake is located 7 miles northeast of Shelton and is fair to good for 8 to 11 inch rainbows. It has a state access with boat launch and two toilets.

SPENCER LAKE: Expect good to excellent fishing all summer for 8 to 10 inch rainbows with some larger carry-overs. Fishing heats up again in the fall on this 230 acre lake. Expect excellent largemouth bass fishing in the summer. Spencer is 7 miles northeast of Shelton off of Highway 3. State access with boat launch and two toilets is available.

TRAIL'S END LAKE: Formerly called Prickett Lake, this 74 acre lake is fair for rainbows up to 10 inches. It can be found 5 1/2 miles southwest of Belfair, and has a state access with one toilet.

WYE LAKE: Wye (38 acres) is fair for rainbows around a foot long. Located 3 1/2 miles southeast of Belfair, this lake also contains smaller trout. You can expect good largemouth bass fishing as the water warms up. State access with one toilet.



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History For The Home Team

By S. Retherford 1987

The sun rose from behind the Cascade mountains casting a coppery path across Henderson Bay a little to the right of Dead Man's Island on July 4, 1924. The grandstand and ball diamond at the park on the hill had been readied for the big picnic and baseball game scheduled with the team of the neighboring cooperative colony of Burley.

The great wooden barrel of salted ice enclosing the shiny tinned container of ice cream was brought up the hill by the refreshment stand below the bleachers. It had come on the M.S. Sentinel from Tacoma the previous evening. Salty water dripped from the hole in the bottom and ice plus rock salt was added occasionally to the top to keep the five gallons of that precious material solidly frozen. Layers of wet burlap further protected it. The high point of the day for the writer, then a five year old, was the purchase of that rare treat, an ice cream cone with the nickel carefully saved for that moment.

Burley players and their families disembarked at Home Dock; a small boat brought some McNeil Island residents as well. Picnic baskets and small children were carried as the older youngsters skipped along the waterfront to 7th Street where they turned up the hill to the park. Horses and buggies brought baseball fans from Vaughn, Lakebay and Longbranch.

Ham sandwiches, pie and coffee were sold at the refreshment stand but most families carried lunch baskets covered with white or red-checked cloths which were soon spread on the grass on the school ground behind the grandstand. After lunch Home matrons visited with women from the other villages keeping an eye on toddlers as they played in the school yard well out of range of the ball game.

The handsome north-facing grandstand was a source of pride. Volunteers had built it of lumber purchased from the Lakebay sawmill four years before. On this hot afternoon the shade of its roof was welcome although many of the men I referred to stand on the field closer to the action leaving some bleacher spare for children to run up and down playing their own games of tag. Alert youngsters chased wildly hit balls into the woods and the lucky finders were rewarded with an ice cream cone. Very few

balls remained lost for long.

Both teams in their smart uniforms engaged in a pre-game warm-up throw and catch. Home players wore ivory and blue with a proud H on their shirts. Frank or Nick Novak pitched for the Home team; Carl Campen played first base; Jack Rickert was second base and Jack Dorotich was the catcher. Kully Movall was too young to be on the team but he made himself useful as he anticipated being a team member in the future.

With a run at the bottom of the ninth inning, the Burley team won the tense game 5 to 4 and at the conclusion there was much friendly back-slapping and congratulations. Good sportsmanship prevailed. The hat was passed by Leo Geffen, team manager, to help with expenses. Many a 25 cent piece (two bits), 50 cent piece (four bits) and occasionally "six bits" or even a silver dollar were tossed into the "kitty". Some games cleared as much as \$100 which went toward improving local public recreational facilities.

The Home team always treated the visiting team to dinner so team members walked down the Sixth Street Hill to Bill and Frankie Cottrell's house to seat themselves at the dinner table heavy with home-grown food. Mountains of mashed potatoes appeared along with boats of gravy, vegetables, salad and great platters of chicken followed by generous wedges of Himalaya blackberry pie.

Dancing to the fiddle and piano started in Home Hall on the waterfront at 7PM and continued until 11. During the intermission it was announced that the next Home game was to be played with the Little Giants of Tacoma, an all black baseball club that enjoyed coming to the friendly village of Home via the M.S. Sentinel. Jack Tanner's father was their manager and always brought young Jack (now a Federal Judge) with him.

Dancing over, the Burley and McNeil Island visitors returned to their boats at the dock with empty baskets and sleeping children in their arms. A few farewell firecrackers sounded but they were a minor part of the celebration in those days.

The writer wishes to thank Kully Movall who helped with much remembering how it was in 1924.

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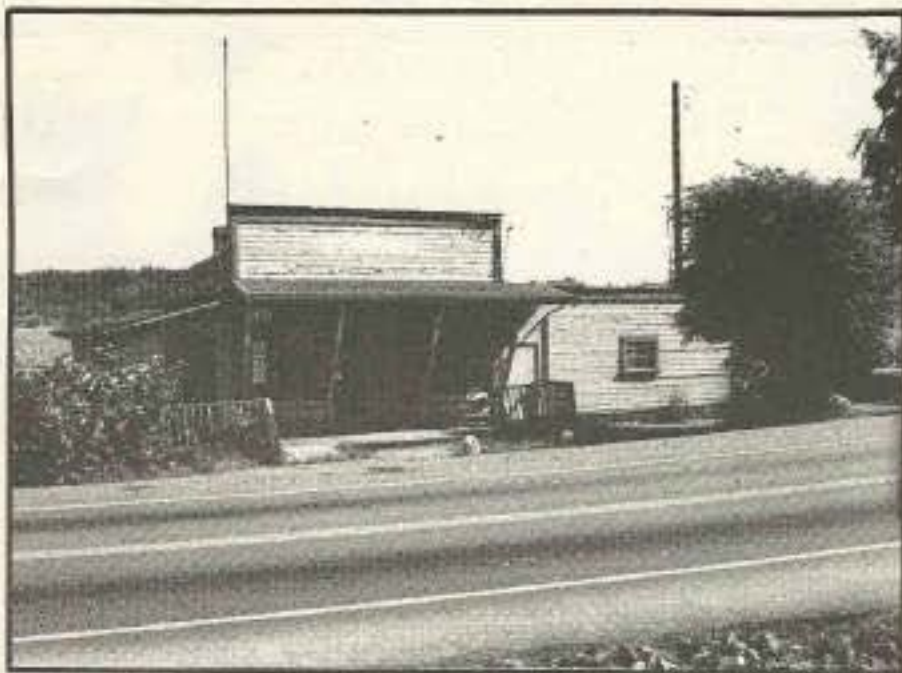


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The Historic Flour, Feed, Grocery Store and Post Office building on the Purdy Spit

History of W.E. White Flour, Feed & Grocery Store

By HUGH AND JEAN HUMPHREYS

THE W.E. WHITE FLOUR, FEED & GROCERY STORE still stands at Wauna, at the end of the Purdy spit. It was originally built by William and Mary White in 1906, the year "Springfield" became Wauna. Store-building was the Whites' way of life. After arriving in the Peninsula area from Nebraska in 1882, they settled with those who were creating farms and orchards in the timberland of Rosedale. Their trip, begun by rail, came down to foot power through the woods. They hired a rowboat to carry them close to the George Ferguson farm at the head of Wollochet Bay.

William and Mary Francis, with small Walter and infant Willis, walked to their homestead near the Rosedale shore of Henderson Bay, where they lived in one of two log houses known locally as former Hudson's Bay cabins. The sites were later developed by the Peters and Easons. It was a growth period for that area. During those years the Whites assisted in choosing Rosedale's name for a post office, contributed to building a school and saw a trail blazed over the wooded hills to Gig Harbor.

The family moved to Allyn, where they owned a store. Before their next move, to the newly platted community of Springfield, three more children were born: Mary Jane, Mason and John. Their first home and store, Wauna Lodge, was built on the uphill side of the road, where they lived and accommodated travelers off steamers.

The dock was the focal point of the small Puget Sound communities that depended on steamers for contact with civilization. When White built his new store in 1906 it faced the dock, sitting sideways to the shore road. In the course of time, Mrs. White was asked to choose a new name for her post office. Aware of the Indians living on the Sound, she chose the name "Wauna," meaning "Mighty Waters." The Whites' only daughter, Mary Jane, married John Goldman in 1906, and the couple took over the store and post office in 1912.

With the decline of steamer traffic and the advent of car ferries, William and Mary had the building pivoted a quarter turn to face the shore road. Mary Jane, Postmaster, worked with the mail in the small lean-to addition. Her parents, William and Mary Frances, moved back to Rosedale and established another White Store in their retirement. Mrs. White continued to take in travelers and boarders, and called the Rosedale Lodge "Natchaug."

The shed-like post office served Wauna customers until July 1982, and the postmaster's position stayed in the family until 1974, when Mary Jane Goldman retired. In 1946 her daughter-in-law, experienced in the Gig Harbor office, took her place, and Margaret Alvestad Goldman remained postmaster until the death of her husband, Ed, in 1971. She is still living in Wauna across from the present post office. New postmasters continued to conduct business in the 10 x 20 space that became more cramped with each passing year.

By July 1982, the Postal Service judged a move necessary, and rented and remodeled the former general store quarters. The 316 reused "antique" boxes were filled immediately, and soon modern new ones were installed, to make approximately 600 boxes. Because the Wauna Post Office is still busy, with customers stopping on their way to and from work, it does far more business work than its number of rented boxes. The "very sound old building" recently needed repair to its base, resting on pilings, where mud and moisture from the road continually slumps against it. Repairs have been made, and now that the Post Office has been transferred to Lake Kathryn, there is the real possibility it will be appointed as a Historic Building.

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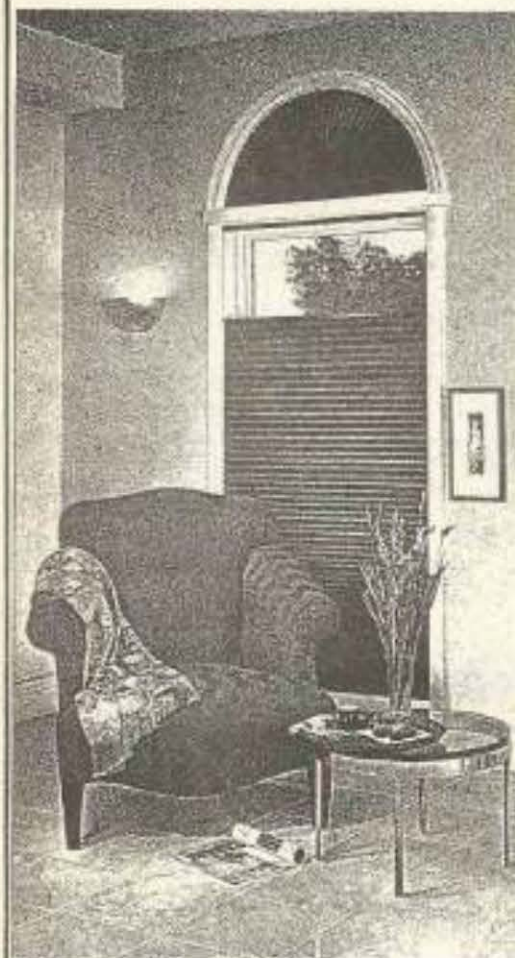
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Vaughn Community Church picture.

Vaughn Community Church

An Unsigned Contribution

THE HISTORY OF THE VAUGHN COMMUNITY CHURCH dates back to 1897, when the Rev. Leigh Applegate purchased the land from Alfred Van Slyke. Mr. Applegate donated lumber from his sawmill on the bay, and the early pioneers of the area contributed their labor and skills in the construction of the church. It was called "The Chapel by the Sea." It was unique, with its heavy rafters and cedar shingles arranged to give an unusual two-toned effect.

The Church was used for a time by both the Episcopalians and Presbyterians. When the sawmill burned, Mr. Applegate left, selling the property to the Presbyterians. In 1908 the Presbyterians withdrew in favor of the Congregationalists—this new group was brought about because of difficulties that ministers had in traveling to serve communities in early days.

In 1949, another merger in the community happened, forming the Vaughn Community Church in Christ. Then in 1956, the name of the church was changed simply to Vaughn Community Church. The church bell was donated by the Ladies Aid in 1904.

In the early 1980s, the church underwent extensive remodeling, updating the inside while trying to keep the outside looking like the original. Now in the 1990s, as the Vaughn Community Church nears its century mark, the old bell can still be heard tolling every Sunday morning around the bay and up in the hills, calling the community to worship.

Directory of Churches

Key Peninsula Life Fellowship
 Meets at Longbranch
 Improvement Club 884-9379

Lakebay Christian Assembly
 2406 McEwan Rd KPN Home
 884-4854

Key Peninsula Baptist Church
 Meets at Vaughn Civic Center
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Lakebay Community Church
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73 Years Longbranch Church Movement

From Hugh & Jean Humphreys

About the turn of the century the residents of Longbranch felt the need for a religious group, so in 1900 a non-denominational Sunday School was organized by Rev. W.B. Williams of Tacoma. There was an enrollment of forty four and they were under the leadership of Mrs. George Curl and Mrs. Henry Curl (Descendants of the Curls are still active members of the congregation). In 1908 Rev. J.M. Dick visited and preached at the schoolhouse. A vote was then taken to build a church. Ground over looking Filucy Bay was donated by a W.J. Wyatt. The townspeople built the Church and drew up the first constitution and by-laws, and named it **LONGBRANCH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**. The first services were held on Easter Sunday April 1908.

In the 30's the Church started to slide down the hill and it was subsequently abandoned and sold in 1939. Meetings continued to be held in the schoolhouse and the Community Hall, and a campaign for another Church began.

On the present grounds which were donated by the Rickert family a new Church was begun in May 1946 and was dedicated in June 1948. This Church also was built by townspeople, and was free and clear of debt when completed. The Fellowship Hall was built by members and friends in 1958; the Parish House was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. DaFoe in 1960. It had been their summer cabin on Filucy Bay, and had to be brought in by barge at high tide -- on Halloween!!

There have been several notable ministers who have been responsible for the growth and development of the Church. Rev. Major Upcraft, a missionary from China on health leave, was here several years in the early 1900's. In 1909 Dr. S.B.L. Penrose, President of Whitman College served as Pastor during the summer months. In the 50's the pastorship of the Church was shared with Lakebay Community Church. Rev. R.D. Decker, a retired Methodist Minister, came in 1958 and served the Church until 1965. In the early 80's Rev. Tom Fukuyama agreed to help the Church for six months and ended up staying four years, leaving only because of poor health. He was replaced by Dr. David Suter who started in 1987 and just resigned to pursue his teaching career, but returns to fill the pulpit as a substitute. Rev. Wally Higbee became the regular part-time Pastor in May 1991.

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