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AN AREA ANALYSIS OF SAN JUAN ISLAND

FLOYD H. SMITH, JR.

1959

June 9, 1962

Mr. W. W. Baker
Agri. Extension Agent
San Juan County

Dear Sir;

Here is the copy of my thesis which I promised you in August 1958. I am a little late due to waiting for acceptance from my department and working on my Master's degree, but primarily due to being lazy and not getting the pictures printed until recently. I hope you will forgive the delay and still find this paper of some interest.

There are probably some errors in the writing that you will find, but I hope that the majority of the paper will be accurate and in agreement with your knowledge of events both before and after our meeting.

Until we meet again,

Sincerely yours

Lloyd H. Smith

AN AREA ANALYSIS OF SAN JUAN ISLAND

by

Floyd H. Smith, Jr.

A THESIS

Submitted to

THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Much of this paper is based on personal observations made during a week of field work on the island in August, 1958. This field work was very pleasing and easy to perform due to the hospitality of the entire population.

CHAPTER I

Introduction to San Juan Island

San Juan Island is one of the group of islands, known by the same name, which belong to the state of Washington. This group is located between the Strait of Georgia and Puget Sound, with Vancouver Island, B. C. on the west and the mainland of Washington on the east.

San Juan Island, having an area of 55.39 square miles, is the second largest in the group of 172 islands. It is also the most westerly major island in the group, approximately twenty-seven air miles west of the Washington State mainland and seventy-one air miles northwest of Seattle.

It is the location of the county seat, Friday Harbor, for the county of San Juan. Of the 3,245 present population in the county, 1,614 are living on this island alone and 783 live in Friday Harbor. These population figures have increased by 300 plus during the last 50 years.

The Island has four major bases in its economy; agriculture, fishing, lime industry and recreation plus retirement. Through the years agriculture, fishing and the lime industry have been progressively dwindling in importance, while recreation and retirement have been pushing toward the front. The reduction of agricultural importance is due mainly to farm management practices, the unwillingness or inability to modernize and the development of competitive production areas in positions more advantageous to markets. An indirect factor of importance is the increase in the rabbit population on the Island. The fishing industry has declined in importance due to the past management of the Salmon runs

for Salmon is the most important fish to the canning industry in this area. The lime industry has ceased to exist as of 1956. This was due to utilizing all of the top quality lime available on the Island. The recreation-retirement industry of the Island has become more important in the last two years due to the increase in public interest in boating and to retirement plans that have been introduced in much of the industry of the nation.

CHAPTER II

The Physical Base

Topography

The topography of San Juan Island is varied and interesting. The western side of the Island is made up of hills and rolling plains up to an elevation of 1,080 feet above sea level. The north end and the eastern side of the Island are composed of rolling plains. The central part of the Island is composed of valleys, with San Juan Valley being the most important with regards to agriculture. The southern tip of the Island is composed of fairly flat plains running to the water's edge. There are no mountains on the Island, and all hills are well rounded due to glaciation.

During the last ice age the entire Washington Sound area was covered by glaciers. These glaciers rounded the tops of all the exposed mountains and hills. In fact all of the islands in this area are composed of sedimentary rock, chiefly from the Paleozoic and Mesozoic eras.

Geology

San Juan Island is composed of sedimentary rock of four main types. The largest part of the Island is covered with Quaternary sedimentary rock from the Cenozoic era. The second most important rock, in area covered, is composed of Pennsylvanian and Permian deposits of the Paleozoic era. Much of the hilly region on the Island is made up of Devonian and Mississippian deposits from the Paleozoic era. There are

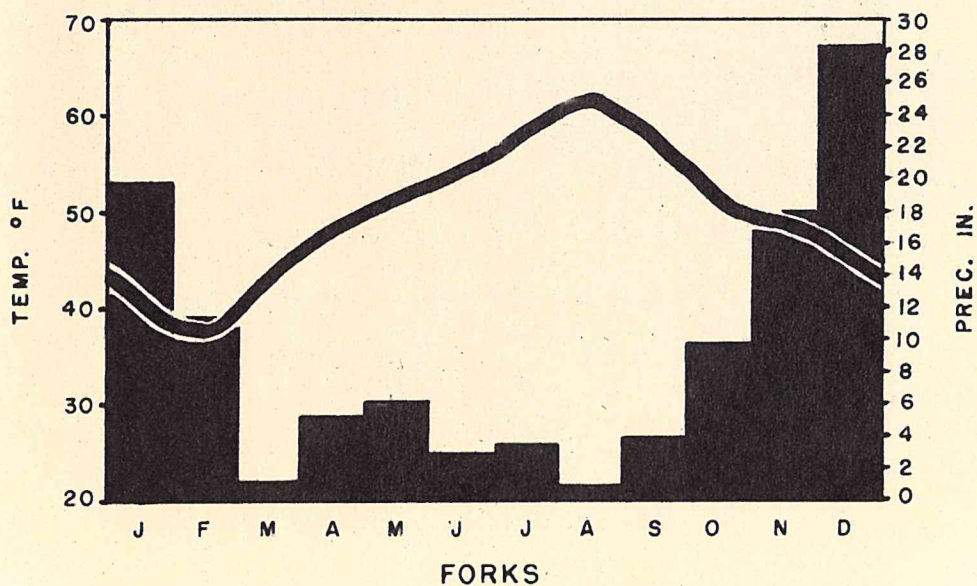
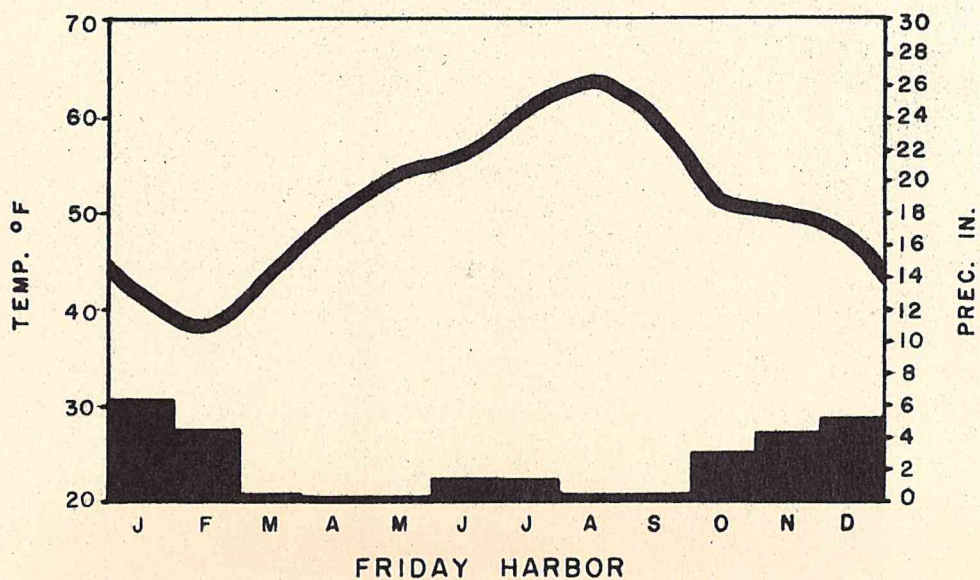
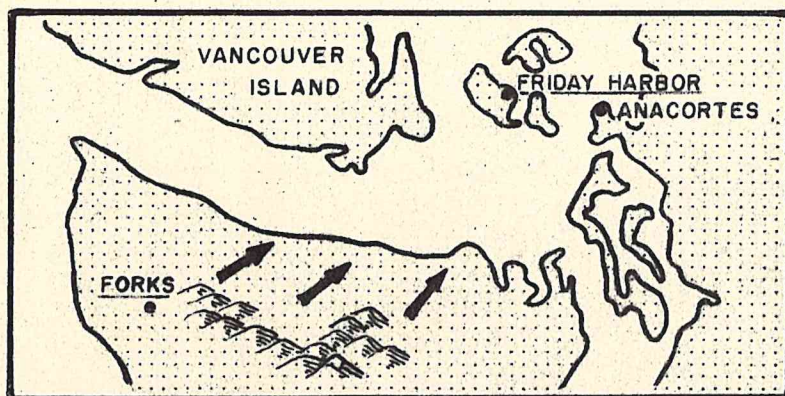


also isolated deposits, over the Island, of Upper Triassic sediments and outcrops of igneous rocks of the Jurassic and Late Jurassic eras.¹

Climate

A complete picture of the climate of San Juan Island is not available, as only the temperature and the precipitation records were taken for a ten-year period. The year of 1939 is used as the average year of records in making the graphs on the following page. As is shown in the graph, the Island has a Marine type of climate with a winter maximum precipitation and a temperature curve void of harsh extremes. The annual mean temperature is 49.9 F. and the annual average precipitation is 22.52" at Friday Harbor. The number of rainy days per year is 153, and the prevailing wind is from the southwest. These figures, alone, do not show the entire picture of the Island's climate, for while the Island has a precipitation regime of a Marine Climate type, its mean figure is much lower than would be expected. A look at the Climatological Data on the following page helps explain this seemingly paradox situation. The climatological data for Forks, Washington, during the same time period as that for Friday Harbor is shown also on the following page. In comparing the temperatures of the two stations, it is very striking that both have almost an identical temperature curve. The precipitation bars are very noticeably different in total amounts even though the pattern is the same. A look at the map above the two graphs clearly shows the reason for this. Forks is located at the foothills of the Olympic Mountains, and as the prevailing southwesterly winds rise to

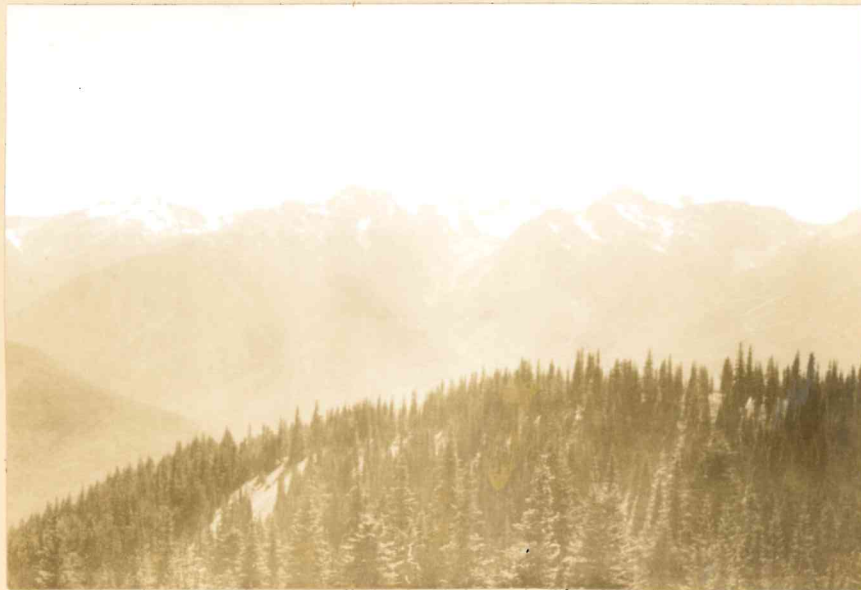
¹ Roy D. McLellan, The Geology of the San Juan Islands, A University of Washington publication in Geology. Vol. 2, Seattle, Washington, Univ. of Wash. Press 1927.



CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA

pass over these mountains they lose much of their precipitation due to orographic principles. This causes Forks to have an annual average precipitation of 138.53" and an average number of 237 rainy days per years. As the winds pass over the Olympics they dry out and continue to do so as they slip down the lee side and reach the Washington Sound. Here they start to pick up moisture again while crossing the water. When they reach the San Juans they again lose moisture but not to such an extent as before. Here the hills of San Juan Island play an important part in controlling the natural flora of the Island, for again orographic precipitation is had over the western side and the northern part of the Island. The southern tip of the Island does not get this effect due to its topography.

Therefore, in regards to climatological data, San Juan Island cannot be considered by itself, but must be compared with the Olympic Mountains, on the Olympic Peninsula, as they are an important factor in the precipitation rate for the Island.



Olympic Mountains

Flora

The main flora of the Island are the Douglas Fir tree, Alder and various grasses. This flora speaks for the climate of the Island in that the northern half of the Island is predominately Douglas Fir while the southern half is generally an open grassland.

Soils

Due to the various types of sediments and their location, the climate and natural flora of the Island, there are six main series of soils present today. They are the Everett and the San Juan Soils of the hill tops which make up 37.6 percent of the Island's area; the Alderwood Soils of the valley and depressions above approximately 200 feet elevation, which make up 55 percent of the Island; the Norma and Bellingham Soils, of the valleys lower than 200 feet elevation which make up 5.3 percent of the area and the peats and mucks of the tidal marsh flats and interior marshes which form the remaining 2.1 percent of the Island's area.²

The Everett and the San Juan Soils have areas or rocky lands interspersed between and among them. The Everett Soils are a gravelly sandy loam to a stony sandy loam in texture and are characterized by excessive drainage. The San Juan Soils are sandy loams to gravelly sandy loams in texture and are also characterized by excessive drainage. The Everett Soils are in abundance in the hills on the western side of the Island, and the San Juan Soils are abundant at Turn Point and at Cattle Point on the southern tip of the Island.³

² Walt Vitous, A Summary of the Land of San Juan Island and its Uses.
A paper for Geography 499 at the Univ. of Wash., Seattle,
Wash., 1952.

³ Ibid

The Alderwood Soils range in texture from gravelly loam to silt loam. They are well drained, but still have good water retention characteristics. Their effective depth ranges from 26 to 30 inches, below which there is usually a hardpan layer.⁴

While the Norma and the Bellingham Soils are minor in area, they are very important in use. The major occurrence of Norma soils is the San Juan Valley, which is the largest agriculturally important valley on the Island. Its texture ranges from a fine sandy loam to a clay loam. It is the best agricultural soil on the Island. The Bellingham series is not predominate in any large area on the Island, but is considered good for agricultural purposes. Its texture ranges from a silty loam to a clay loam, and it is usually in need of drainage.⁵

Water Resources

San Juan Valley has two fair-sized streams running through it. They are not of great capacity, but are large enough to be used for sprinkler irrigation. There are other small creeks on the Island, but not of great importance due to their size and location. There are no large rivers or water falls on the Island, but there are four small lakes that have potentials as irrigation water sources or stock watering ponds.

The main water resource associated with San Juan Island is the surrounding bays and straits, which abound with algae and plankton and other marine life. These waters around the Island, and throughout the county, comprise the only area in North America with such an abundance of marine life, especially algae and plankton. This was an important factor in the location of the Oceanography Laboratories of the University

⁴ Ibid, p. 8

⁵ Ibid, p. 8.

of Washington on San Juan Island. The waters in this area were considered so important that in 1923, all of the waters in San Juan County were designated a marine biological reserve by the United States Government. This meant that nothing could be collected from these waters, except for food, without the Oceanography Laboratory Director's permission. At this time 484 acres were set aside on San Juan Island for use by Washington State as a biological station. Today this is a State Forest Reserve.⁶

Fauna

The Island's fauna, at present, consists of deer, hares (introduced earlier), predatory birds such as owls and hawks and migratory waterfowl. There are also sea gulls and birds that live along the Island's shores.

RABBITS

⁶ Mrs. Hazelwood, Publicity Director, Dept. of Oceanography, Univ. of Washington - Interview August, 1958.

CHAPTER III

The History of the Island

General History

The Lummi tribe of Indians were the first inhabitants of the islands. They were peace loving and made friends with the white man when he came to the area. The first record of a white man setting foot on Washington soil was the Spaniard Bruno Hecata, who sailed from Spain and reached the area in 1775. This set off a race from various European countries to explore this part of the New World. In 1792 Captain George Vancouver sailed through the Strait of Juan de Fuca and scientifically mapped the islands and claimed them for the King of England.

In 1841, however, the United States sent Captain Charles Wilkes to command an expedition to survey the San Juan Islands and claim them for this country. Although the islands were claimed by both countries, there were no major problems between the settlers, which included not only Americans and Englishmen from Vancouver Island, but also French Canadian trappers, who were old timers on the islands. In 1853 the Hudson Bay Company started a large farm and trading post on San Juan Island and did a fine business of trading with the Indians for hides and furs. Later when the United States tried to collect taxes from them, uneasiness spread through the islands between the various factions, which was finally set off when an American potato farmer shot an Englishman's pig. This caused the settlers to join sides and unofficially declare war between England and The United States. To ease the trouble and keep orderly peace, both sides sent troops to San Juan Island.

The English were garrisoned on the northwest side of the Island and the American troops were stationed on the southern tip near Cattle Point.⁷

This situation remained from 1859 to 1872, when Emperor William of Germany, as sole arbitrator, decided that the Haro channel should be the boundary between Canada and The United States.⁸

After this, life on San Juan went along rather smoothly with sheep and cattle being the main economic enterprises. They became the main sources of income in 1853 when over 3,000 head of sheep and cattle were brought to the Island from Vancouver Island. For thirty some years ranching was the mainstay of the Island, until in 1883, when the first lime plant was established on the Island. This was the start of industry on the Island and was later added to, in 1896, by the start of a fish cannery.

From the start of the twentieth century to the present, the lime industry, fish canning and agriculture, especially dairying, have been the mainstays of the Island. Recreation has only been started since 1946 and as yet is still increasing in importance.

Present Situation

Today, San Juan Island is connected with the mainland by the Washington State Ferries Company which operates three ferries each day from June to Labor Day. After this ^{Two} (one) ferry each day is all that connects the two by water, except for pleasure craft. The only other means of transportation that connects San Juan with the other islands

⁷ Beatrice Cook, What's What in the San Juans, A booklet available in the San Juans.

⁸ Mrs. Davis, The San Juan Dispute, Journal Print, Friday Harbor, Washington.

and the mainland is a twice daily roundtrip landplane service from Friday Harbor, seaplane taxis serving the entire area and charter and Taxi Planes, both land and water. There is also an Air Ambulance Service available.

The transportation system on San Juan is mostly composed of gravel roads, but asphalt pavement connects Friday Harbor with Roche Harbor and the Oceanography Labs and runs into San Juan Valley and down to Cattle Point.

Electrical power is available throughout the Island from the plant at Friday Harbor, which uses diesel fuel for generating it. Water is supplied to Friday Harbor from Trout Lake and the rest of the Island is supplied from wells varying in depth from 25 feet to 300 feet.

Today, with the various services available and the influential people on the Island determined to improve them, the Island has a good basis for the establishment of a retirement and recreation mecca in the Northwest. Recreation has the brightest future outlook on the Island as the climate and the remoteness from the hustle of the present day living pace make it a place of unique qualities in the entire country. Agriculture is trying to make a comeback by establishing new and scientifically operated farms, and the fish cannery is continuing to operate by canning fish and peas. The lime industry is dead, and the present owners of the properties are planning on establishing a complete recreation area out of them.

CHAPTER IV

Agriculture and its Role in the Economy of the Island

Agricultural History

The first major agricultural industry on San Juan Island was the sheep and cattle ranching enterprises that were started in the nineteenth century. These two industries have remained important in the Island's agriculture to the present, except during the 1930's when the cream market had a slump due to the depression and the distance from large markets.

Dairying became popular and important in the late 19th century, and by 1907 the main agricultural product to leave the Island was butter. At this time 120 tons per year were made at the creamery outside of Friday Harbor. This product has remained important to the present.

In 1916, with the first world war being waged, many of the farmers on the Island grew split peas to be sold overseas for soup. This was a temporary measure to capitalize on the increased wartime market, and lasted only a couple of years.

A second fish cannery was started in 1918 which switched to canning peas in 1923. This was at a time that the pea market looked good and again speculating farmers and the cannery tried to make a killing on a single crop while the market seemed good. This fact caused many farmers to change from the dried peas to the green peas. Green peas were more perishable but had a better market value in the nearby urban areas.

In the early 1900's San Juan County was also a major tree fruit supplier for the Puget Sound area. In 1908 the county won a banner

from the State Exposition in Seattle for the best cherries in the State. Apples were a main crop on San Juan Island, a fact that is still witnessed by the many old, and in some cases, decaying orchards on various farms over the Island. This phase of agriculture gave way to others when other areas, especially the Yakima Valley, became prime contenders for the market. The mainland suppliers won the market rights without much trouble for they were much more accessible.

During the 1930's, when the conservation programs were being pushed by the national government, vetch became an important crop with California being a big market. San Juan Island met the challenge and for fifteen years supplied California with part of its needed vetch seed for cover crops. However, California started growing her own vetch and by 1947, San Juan was out of business.

Present Land Use

Today the Island has three main classifications of land. A look at the accompanying map shows an impressive amount of idle land, most of it wooded by second growth Douglas Fir. The second largest area on the map is that of pasture lands, most being partly wooded and unimproved. The third area of size is that of croplands.

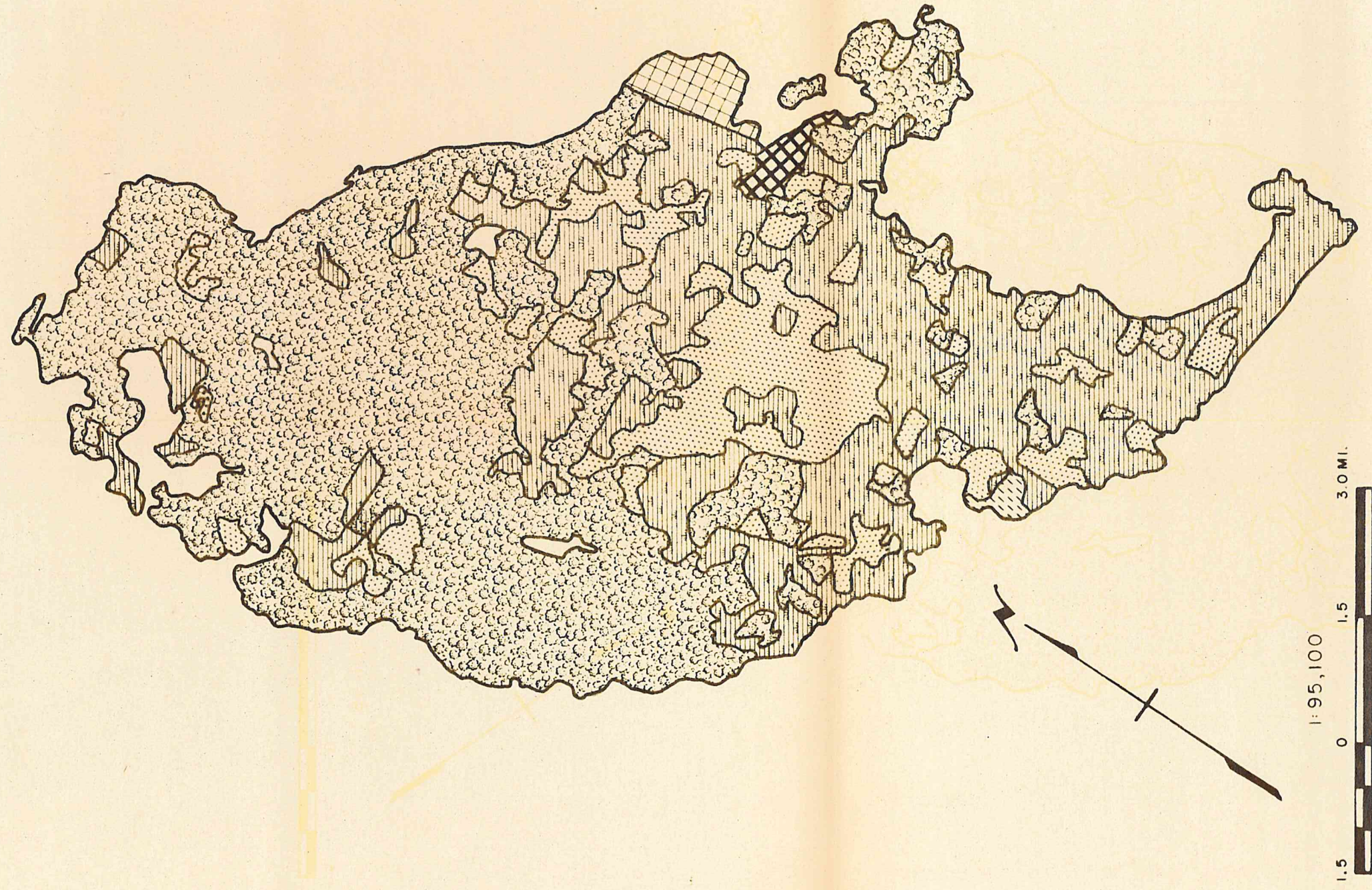
The idle lands are of no great agricultural importance, for they are located in the hills of the western and northern part of the Island. Here the lands are rocky and have a close cover of young trees and brush.

The grazing lands of the Island are in poor condition. A major portion of them show the signs of overgrazing with accompanying dry spells for bracken fern and Russian thistle are in abundance over much







of the Island. What grass is left is very short, and during the dry summers, dried out and of little food value. There are some exceptions as the farm near Sportsmans Lake which specializes in registered Aberdeen Angus cattle. Here pasture improvement and rotations are a function of the farm's operations. Sprinkler irrigation is also used on this farm.⁹ The difference in the appearances of these pastures, with regards to the average seen on the Island is very noticeable. Little encroachment of invader plants and the sight of green grass during the dry spells show up vividly and mean a better and larger marketable product.

The cropland of the Island is best exemplified by that in the San Juan Valley area. This is the largest area of good cropland on the Island. Eight hundred acres of this land are owned by the Friday Harbor Canning Company. They are run by a single manager, who cooperates extensively with the county agent, SCS and a major seed company. Together they are trying to adapt new and more scientific methods of operations and better or different crops to the economic system of the Island and county. Recently fifty acres were put into a new ryegrass (S-23) and Penlawn for experimental purposes. These two grasses showed excellent germination results for the first year and the manager and agents from the government and industry are more than excited. These crops and others like them could mean the start of a new organized boom for the Island's agriculture. Cereals and canning peas are the main crops grown on this farm. Peas are grown on 350 acres and barley on 265

⁹ W. W. Baker, Agri. Extension Agent, Interview. August, 1958.



LEGEND

	PASTURE LANDS
	CROP LANDS
	IDLE LANDS (MOSTLY CUTOVER AND WOODLANDS)
	RECREATIONAL RESORT
	URBAN AREA
	GAME RESERVE

THIS MAP IS A GENERALIZED VERSION OF
A LAND USE MAP, OF SAN JUAN ISLAND MADE
IN JULY, 1953, WHICH WAS COMPILED AND
DRAWN BY,

KOPF, MOORE STINE
BROOKS, YAGER SMART
PERUZZI, SOKOLOVICH
HUDSON, HASHIM

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF:

DR. J. C. SHERMAN
DR. T. M. GRIFFITHS
MR. J. L. SIMMS

LAND USES OF SAN JUAN ISLAND

acres. Most of the barley is shipped to Mt. Vernon for sale.

Barley is raised not only on this farm but on many of the other farms on the Island for it is a hardy crop and can withstand the dry summers common to the Island.



San Juan Valley Cannery Farm

Problems

There are two major problems confronting the farmers on the Island. One is the dry summers that turn much of the grass and other crops brown. Without irrigation little can be done to combat this as it is an every year occurrence. Due to the size of the economic unit of many farmers here and the high initial cost of sprinkler irrigation systems, most farmers cannot foresee its use in the near future. The average farm size for the county is 154 acres, and for the type of crops raised at present, it is not a good economic size. With the introduction of better

drought resistant crops having higher yield potentials and higher cash value, this problem will possibly be defeated.

The second problem is more tangible than the first, and at the same time more devastating. It is the extreme overpopulation of rabbits that is unique to San Juan Island with regards to the rest of the State.

Below is a picture that is a good illustration of the effects of this problem on a barley field.



Barley Closeup After Rabbits Attacked it.

There is no written history as to the start of the problem, but it is general knowledge that there have been at least three large scale attempts at raising Belgian Hares commercially. The last of these attempts was ended in the '30s when the depression caused the owner to release several hundred of these hares on the Island. Due to the mild

*domestic breeds of rabbits - not
all Belgian Hares*

rabbit
winters the hares have multiplied to such an extent that today there seems to be no end to their numbers. It is impossible to drive across the Island without seeing at least a half a hundred hares - dead or alive. *rabbit*

In 1947 four people on the Island decided to market these hares commercially. To do this they established freezing units and modern packing equipment. To harvest the hares they made special "rabbit cars". These were usually outdown, older models of standard passenger cars which were fitted with a powerful spot light and a coup to house the captured animals. Each car carried four men; a driver, a spotter and two netters who were equipped with a net approximately three feet in diameter and four feet deep at the end of a six foot handle. As each hare was spotted, a netter would catch the animal and throw it into the coup. Back at the freezing plant, the hares would be killed, skinned and dressed. Then they would be cut up, packaged and frozen to await shipment to market. An average catch for an evening would be 125.¹⁰ *rabbit*

The packaged rabbits were shipped to Seattle for sale, but at the end of the third year, this had ceased due to the efforts of the Rabbit Breeders Association. The association convinced the city of Seattle that these rabbits should not be allowed on the market. Today there is no commercial operation in rabbits on the Island and their only means of death are the few predators on the Island, natural death and hunters which come to the Island by the dozens for the sole reason of shooting

¹⁰ Miss Nichols, Daughter of original commercial rabbit hunter, Buz Nichols, Interview, August 1958.

many refer him

them and taking them home to their individual freezers. There are some farmers who try to poison them, but to little avail as in many cases their neighbor does not do this due to economic reasons.

Pulpwood Industry

A side interest that some farmers are working with is the harvesting and selling of Alder pulp. Although the Island must have all of its finished lumber shipped in, it does have an abundance of Alder that is of commercial value for pulp. This does not mean that there is enough for a full-time pulp wood industry, for there have been those who have lost money in trying to establish such an industry. There is, however, a plentiful supply, if it is integrated with the regular farm activities, for the individual farmers to make extra cash.

The Lime Industry and its Role in the Economy of the Island

History of The Industry

Two lime companies have been in operation on San Juan Island. The first company that bought land on the Island and established a plant was the Roche Harbor Lime and Cement Company which was owned by John Macmillan. This company's plant was established in 1883 and was set up to produce quick lime, agricultural lime and limerock. Almost at the same time this company was established on the northern end of the Island, the Henry Cowell Lime and Cement Company purchased lime deposits on the western side of the Island. This company didn't have the best deposits on the Island, however, and in 1930 their deposits were exhausted.

The Roche Harbor Lime and Cement Company established their plant at Roche Harbor which was located directly below the lime quarries.* This setup was very economical in operation for the only raw material that it was necessary to haul any distance at all was the wood that was used for fuel. The plant had access to an excellent storm free harbor that made shipping easy.

The lime rock was blasted in the quarries located in the hills overlooking the harbor and plant. The blasted rock was hauled by wagon approximately 500 yards and dumped into a wooden chute which fed the kiln below at the base of the hill. The kiln slaked the limerock by using wood which was abundant and cheap fuel. When the slaked lime was ready for crushing, it was emptied from the bottom of

* See map on page 29

the kiln into a mine car which dumped its load into another wagon. It was then hauled about 300 yards to the crushing plant seen in the picture on the next page. Here the lime was crushed, bagged and readied for shipment to Seattle, Bellingham, Alaska or Hawaii.



Roche Harbor Lime and Cement Company Plant

During the 1940's a large kiln was added to the crushing plant building. This kiln also used wood for fuel but had a larger capacity than the older kilns at the base of the hill. When the entire plant was in operation, including the older kilns, the company produced about 2,000 tons of quick lime per month, 2,000 to 3,000 tons of crushed lime rock per month and many tons of agricultural lime.

In September of 1956 the plant closed down, never again to be opened for lime production. This was due to using up the top quality

lime and running into the limerock that was too high in its flint and magnesium content for it to be good for calcified lime.

John MacMillan's Influences on the Industry of the Island

This was the end of the lime industry on San Juan Island but not the end of John MacMillan's mark on the Island or its history. While he was running the plant and its operations, Roche Harbor was isolated from the rest of the Island and was almost a true barony. There was a company store in the town of Roche Harbor, and this was the only authorized place of business that the employees of the company could buy their needs. Employees were paid in company script, except for a few American dollars, each month. They were supplied with company housing and were not allowed to leave the area without the personal permission of John MacMillan.¹¹

While MacMillan ruled his employees with almost dictatorial powers, he was very open and businesslike with the rest of the world, especially those who were Masons, Sigma Chi's and Republicans. These three organizations meant everything to him insofar as social importance was concerned. He was such a staunch Mason that he built a mausoleum for his immediate family in the form of the Biblical temple that was the basis for the start of the Masonic Lodge. This temple is still standing today, and it is planned to make it a tourist attraction in the future. It is round and has a solid limestone floor with a solid limestone round table in the center of it with six solid limestone chairs around it.

¹¹ Dennis Brenner, Manager of the Roche Harbor Restaurant, Interview August, 1958.

There is no roof, but a ring about 30 feet above the floor is supported by six columns. The chairs and the columns are arranged in positions that require seven of each to make six equal arcs around the table, but one chair and most of one column are missing. This is in accordance with the original temple of biblical times. The reason for this lies in the Biblical story behind the temple which is as follows:¹²

Originally there were seven kings that decided to run their kingdom together with each having the same power in a council of seven. They decided to build a temple for their meetings and had one built on the order of that mentioned before except with seven columns and seven chairs. The open roof was intended, and was meant to symbolize eternal life. Before the temple was finished, however, one of the seven kings was murdered by a rival and to immortalize their lost friend the remaining six kings decided to leave space for one chair and to leave one of the seven columns out.¹³

¹² Ibid., p. 24

¹³ Ibid., p. 24

CHAPTER VI

The Fishing Industry of the Island

The Friday Harbor Canning Company cannery is the second oldest cannery in the Puget Sound Area and was started by Oregonians.¹⁴

It has always been a salmon cannery except during 1915 when it canned peas until the pea moth and the weevil caused them to change back to fish again. Fish continued to be the prime commodity until in 1956 when the salmon dwindled to such an extent that it was more profitable to grow and can peas again. Today the plant is being set up to handle both salmon and peas.¹⁵

The biggest years for the cannery in regards to salmon were from 1920 to 1934 when the company was using traps. Later when traps were outlawed the cannery's hauls weren't as good but were large enough to keep the cannery operating. Today, the cannery does mostly custom canning for the New England Fish Company. When this merger was induced, the cannery also bought four individual units in the San Juan Valley to form their farm which raises peas for canning. Today the cannery puts out 1,500 cases of salmon of their own, 30,000 cases of salmon for the New England Fish Company and 40,000 cases of peas from its farm.¹⁶

The cannery doesn't own any fishing boats of its own but operates a single tender. This is a ship that hauls the individual fishing boats

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 24

¹⁵ George P. Jeffers, President of Friday Harbor Canning Company, Interview, August, 1958.

¹⁶ Ibid.

out to the fishing grounds and picks up the loads that they have acquired. Such a ship can be seen on the far left of the picture on this page. The cannery does offer financial assistance to individual fishermen in acquiring their own boats, however. The small boats seen in the picture were financed by the cannery for some Italian fishermen at a cost of \$3,500 for each boat including a single gill net. It is arranged so that the fishermen can pay for the equipment in three years.¹⁷

Behind the boats in the picture is the net drying and equipment shed. The large building in the rear is the cannery which houses four large cooking vats.



Friday Harbor Canning Company Cannery

¹⁷ Ibid., p. 26

CHAPTER VII

Recreation and Retirement and its Role in the Economy

The start of recreation and retirement areas was in 1946.

Marvista, Lonesome Cove, and Evartes were the areas that started this industry. Since then there has been an increase in interest in owning retirement property on the Island. Many individuals have bought land for retirement homes, due to the relatively cheap land (waterfront land averages 20 to 25 dollars a foot for lots 300 feet deep), mild climate, and accessibility to the surrounding waters which offer varied fish and boating opportunities.

The most outstanding example of a resort and recreation area on the Island is the Roche Harbor area. This area was the site of the largest lime operations on the Island, but when the plant was closed in 1956, the owners of the Roche Harbor Lime and Cement Company properties and Mr. Ruben J. Tarte started making plans to form the harbor and the surrounding area into the largest resort in the Puget Sound area.

The start was in 1957 when floats were placed in the harbor to accomodate pleasure craft. In June, 1958, a restaurant was made out of one of the original buildings along the harbor. It has a very pleasant atmosphere with many of the antiques of John MacMillan being displayed and cozy tables with linen cloths. Prices are not out of sight, and the food is very good; New York Sirloin Steak for \$4.95, Baked Sugar Cured Ham for \$2.70, Filet of Roche Harbor Salmon for \$2.55, all including soup, salad, baked potato, one vegetable, roll and butter, dessert and

beverage. There are also luncheons for \$1.05 to \$1.25 with chicken and salmon available.¹⁸

During the next ten years the owners with assistance from the Western Hotel Association plan to renovate the old Hotel de Haro which was the original site of the Hudson Bay Company and the golf course that was built by John MacMillan for Theodore Roosevelt's visit. There are also plans for a motel and a small airplane landing strip and extension of the floats in the harbor.¹⁹

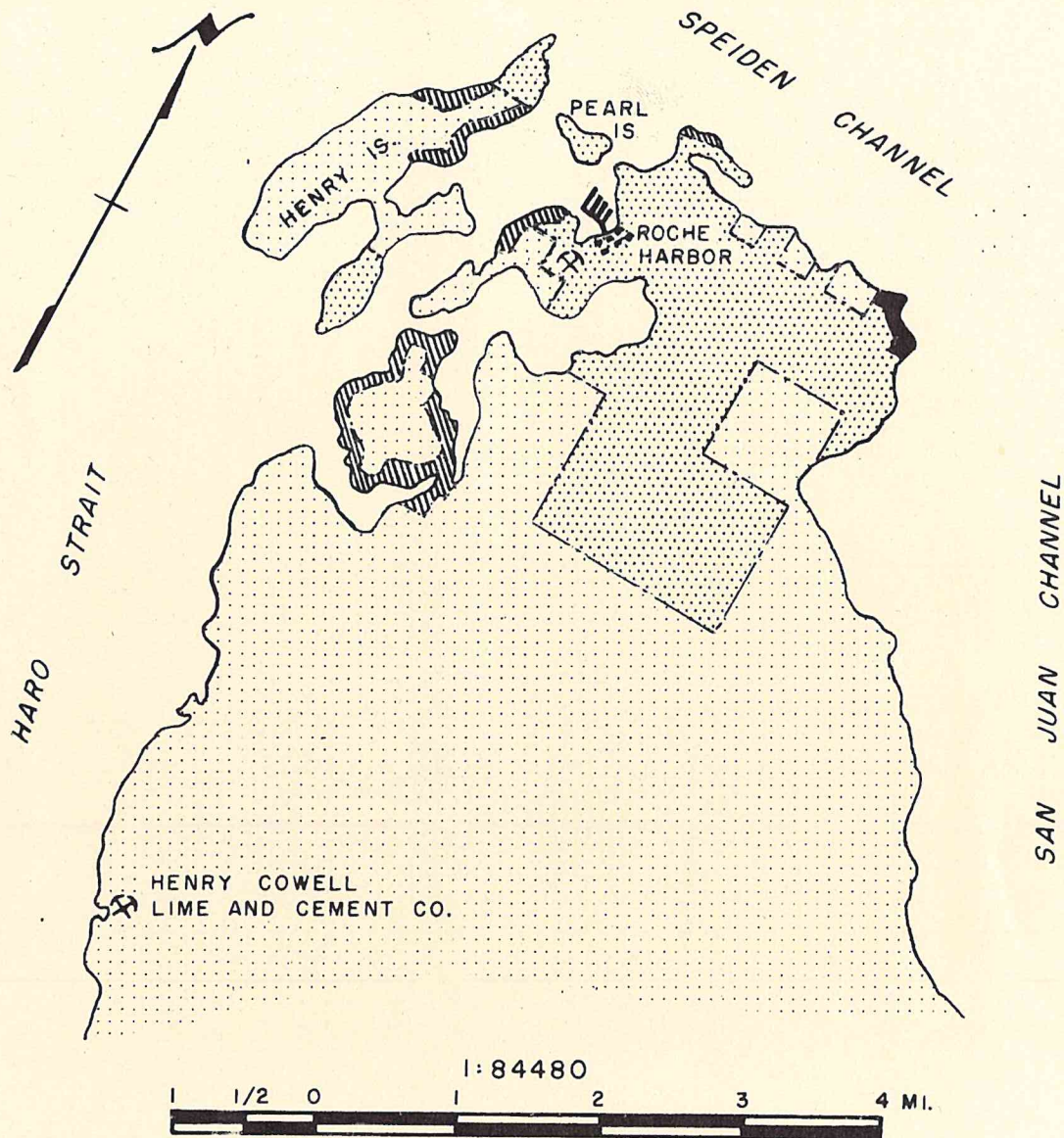
Today waterfront lots are being layed out and sold to people who are looking for retirement properties. More of these properties will become available in the future as they are needed. The sale of these properties and the establishment of the recreation facilities stated above should make the Roche Harbor area the largest and most attractive playground in western Washington.






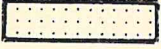


ROCHE HARBOR - WASH

Roche Harbor Showing Floats

¹⁸ Ibid., p. 24
¹⁹ Ibid., p. 24



LEGEND

-  EXISTING WATERFRONT PROPERTY
-  NEW WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT BY R.H.L.CO.
-  ROCHE HARBOR LIME COMPANY PROPERTY
-  OTHER PROPERTY
-  NEW AND FUTURE YACHT FLOATS
-  LIME QUARRIES

SAN JUAN ISLAND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH END

CHAPTER VIII

The Urban Area of Friday Harbor

San Juan Island has one urban area, Friday Harbor. According to the 1950 population census there were 783 people living in the city limits of Friday Harbor.

Its shops consist of two grocery stores, two hardware stores, a furniture store, one drug store, a restaurant, two gas stations, a large feed store, a lumber yard and miscellaneous shops.

It also has a grade school, high school, two hotels, an American Legion building and local chapters of I. O. O. F., Masons, Moose and Eastern Star. There are churches representing the Catholic, Christian Science, Episcopal, Presbyterian and Community Church religions.

Most of the necessary modern day services are present, such as the telephone company, power and light company, newspaper, bank, attorneys, accountants, funeral directors, insurance agents, real estate, etc. There are physicians, a surgeon and a dentist and the county health clinic present as well.

Among the special services present are two auto dealers, frozen food lockers, radio and television sales and service, and a motor freight service.

As Friday Harbor is the county seat, it also houses the Agriculture County Agent's office, the Soil Conservation Service offices and the County Courthouse.

It is the only ferry port on the Island which connects San Juan with the rest of Washington. The ferry landing is surrounded by the

lumberyard, the seed company, the main fish cannery and large storage facilities of the oil companies representing the Island. These facilities can be seen in the picture below with the cannery on the left and the rest on the right of the ferry landing.



Friday Harbor

Friday Harbor is the port of entry for the Island's bread and groceries which come from Bellingham, Washington. It is also where the county's milk comes to go to the creamery. Due to the ferry dock, it is where all tourists enter the Island that come by car. In short it is the main connecting link between San Juan Island and the rest of the world, and will probably remain so since its facilities are well established already.

CHAPTER IX

The Potentials of the Island and its Various Economic Bases

A study of the present situation on the Island seems to indicate that its future lies mainly in the recreation and retirement fields. There has already been a good start in this direction on all parts of the Island. The organized efforts on the northern end should be a great aid in establishing this source of income especially since a good portion of the land is owned by those interested in recreation and retirement. The rest of the Island has potentials for this form of income, but they must be made more attractive to tourists by renovation or organization.

Today there are visiting hours at the Oceanography laboratories, but they are not widely publicized, and tours are undertaken by the staff although they are busy on current projects. An organized tour by a competent guide could alleviate the staff this duty, and at the same time, cover the surrounding game reserve.

Sightseeing boats could do a good business of showing the surrounding waters and shore sights to visitors. They could also work in conjunction with Roche Harbor in bringing people there from Friday Harbor for local tours.

The camping facilities of the Island must be improved and enlarged because they are far from accomodating at present. There are no toilet facilities on the grounds, and the water supply, even though disease free, is far from appetizing. The camping facilities such as picnic tables and benches are in dire need of repair and the existing fire places are very crude. For these accomodations there is a charge of one dollar per night which seems quite steep in comparison to the rest of the State.

If the Island is to accomodate future tourists, the existing San Juan Park shall have to be renovated, and in addition, other parks set up on other parts of the Island. This park is approximately eight miles from Friday Harbor, by road, which places every camper at a disadvantage regarding food supplies. Closer camps would give some aid to this problem as would the establishment of an emergency store at the present location.

The climate and the remoteness of the Island is conducive to retiring people. Several people interviewed agreed that they enjoyed living their retirement years there where the year round temperatures are mild and the precipitation moderate. There they can enjoy a leisurely life away from the fast pace of living and be outdoors most of the time.

The agriculture of the Island needs some changing for it to become a major source of income. At the present time the experiments carried out on the cannery farm seem to point to a specialized seed program. Various vegetable seeds do well here, and the indication is that the S-23 variety of ryegrass and Penlawn seed will do well too. These grass seeds are important for they require little irrigation since the Island receives adequate moisture in the form of fog in most instances when there is not enough rain. Seed would be an economical product to ship to market for a relatively large amount could be shipped in a rather small space. This is important as the Island is separated from the main markets by water. Another factor of importance regarding shipping is the fact that the seed would not be perishable and could withstand the water transportation without any bad effects.

There will always be a need for dairy products on the Island, and if the future turns out as well as expected, an increase in production will be necessary. One fact that must be taken into account will be the establishment of more grade A dairies. Many of the dairies at the present meet only grade C requirements. This is acceptable for the making of butter at the local creamery but in the future will not meet the requirements of the area.

For a better establishment of the dairy industry, many of the pastures will have to be improved and better grazing management established.

Before the agriculture can be expanded the problem of the wild ~~Belgian hares~~ ^{RABBITS} will have to be solved. This will have to be done over the entire Island with all of the farmers participating for the present day isolated attempts have accomplished little and have cost the individuals much money. The farmers here have an advantage that people in other areas do not, that the area to be rid of rabbits is isolated from an outside source of the problem.

The fishing in the area will always be limited, and therefore, the canning of fish at the local cannery will probably be limited to custom canning for a large national concern. Peas will allow the cannery to have some diversification but will not replace the economic support from custom fish canning.²⁰

Therefore, the fishing industry of San Juan has about reached its place in importance with regards to the Island's economy. There is

²⁰ Ibid., p. 26

always the possibility that custom canning will become larger in scale, but very little chance that it will become the major industry of the Island.

The lime industry is over, and the chances of it being started again are extremely small. Only a dire need of lime products, and a shortage of purer sources, due to war or economic reasons, would allow the plant to reopen with a chance of being an economic enterprise.

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