

Soft Gold, The Honeymoon Hotel, and Enemy Detection:

CHANGING SENSE OF PLACE AT PACIFIC BEACH

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Sense of Place:



- ▶ Strong relationship between experience and locality; a locality that evokes strong images, feelings, sentiments, and meanings defined through shared experience and value

- ▶ (Lang 1999 – *From Where We are Standing: the sense of place and environmental history*)

Pacific Beach History – 5 themes:

- ▶ Native American history – value as homeland:
 - ▶ Prehistory and the Quinault Indian Tribe
- ▶ Euro-American settlement – Value as a source of wealth to exploit:
 - ▶ 1860-1880 – sea otter hunting “soft gold”
 - ▶ 1880-1895 – timber production; commercial fishing/shellfish collecting
- ▶ Recreational playground (1895-1941) – Renewed value in landscape, nature, and experience
- ▶ Navy and Air Force (1941 – 1987) - Value for national defense
- ▶ Return to recreation (1987 – present)

Late glacial outwash channel – ancestral Humptulips River



Qap0 Early Wisconsin Alpine outwash deposits



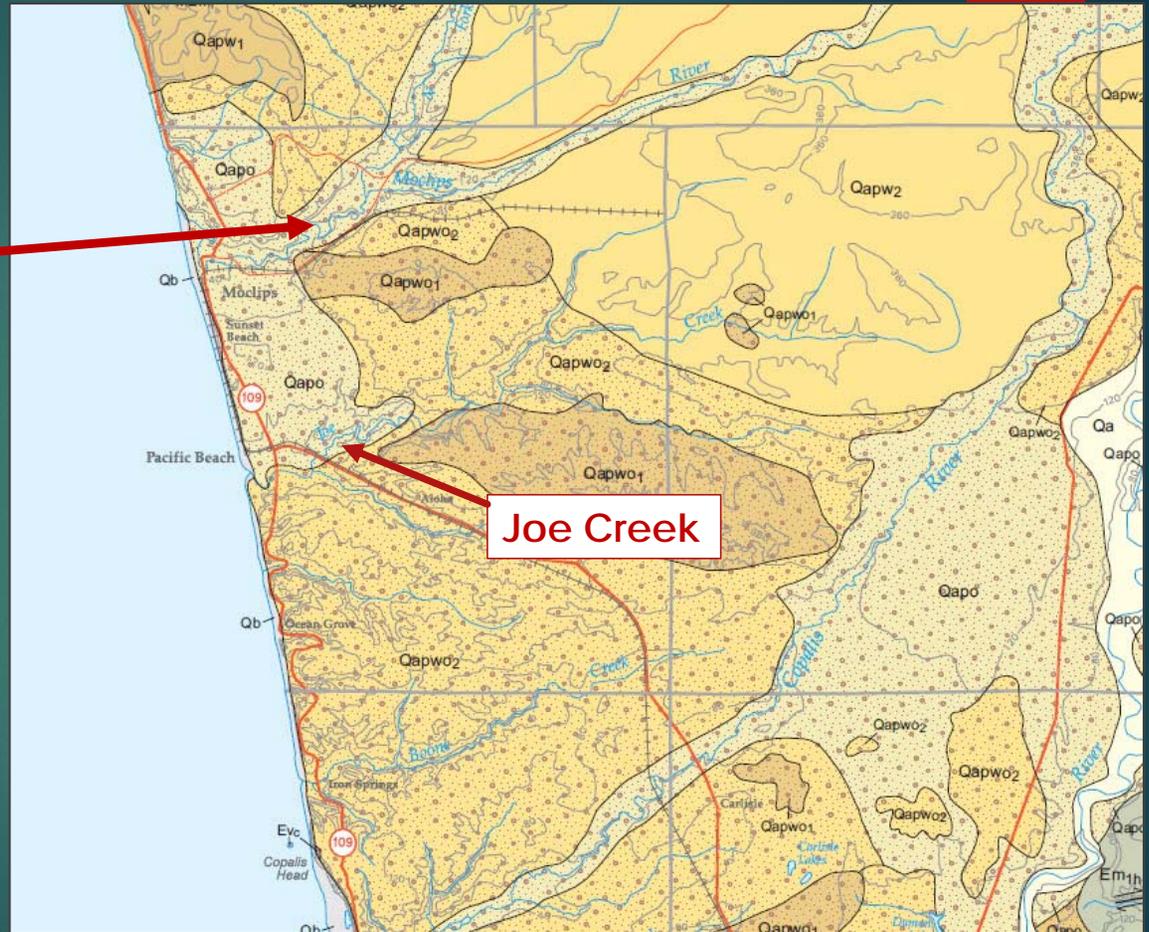
Qapw2 Younger pre-Wisconsin Alpine till and outwash.



Qapwo2 Younger pre-Wisconsin outwash.



Qapwo1 Older pre-Wisconsin Alpine outwash



Disappearing Bridges -

Dynamic Nature of the Joe Creek Channel

- ▶ 1896 – Footbridge crossing Joe Creek at 4th Street washes out.
- ▶ 1930 – cable hand car replaced by automobile bridge.
- ▶ 1939 – first automobile bridge washes out.
- ▶ 1939 – WPA stabilizes Joe Creek outlet
- ▶ 1953 – Automobile bridge washed out..
- ▶ After 1960, outlet channelized with rock bulkhead (Luttrell 2011). This area is now the 10-acre Pacific Beach State Park (Workman 1997).



Early 1900s (Polson Museum)



1960 (Anderson/Middleton Co)



2006 – bulkhead
and filled area



First Peoples: Place as Our Homeland

- 1791 – 1850: EUROPEAN EXPLORATION, FUR TRADE, AND DISEASE TRANSMISSION
- 1855: TREATY SIGNED AND QUINAULT PLACED ON RESERVATION; TRIBAL CENTER IN TAHOLA

Quinault Tribal Lands:

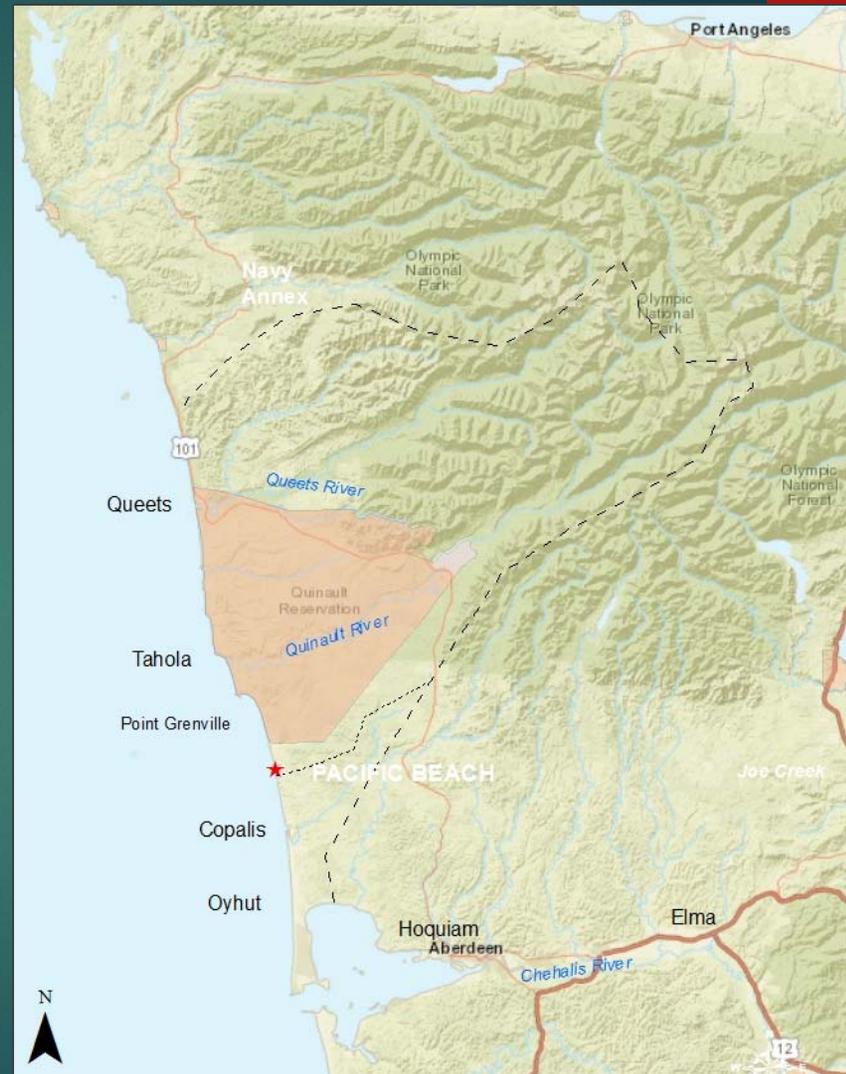
- Quinault speakers (Tsamosan Branch of the Salish Language)

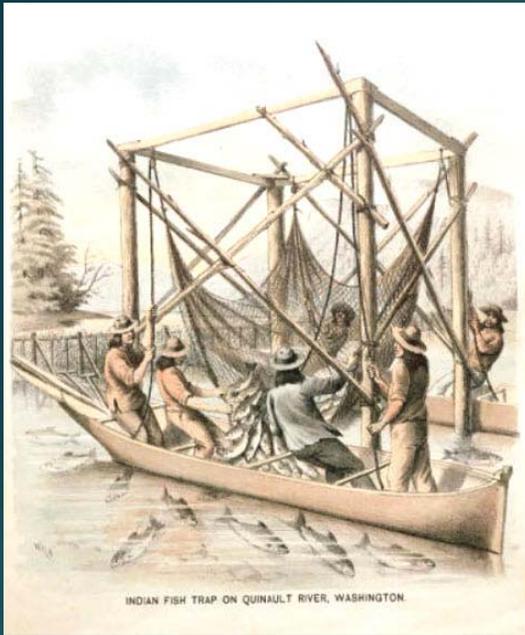
Three groups:

Quinault – Quinault River valley

Queets – Queets River

Copalis – Copalis River

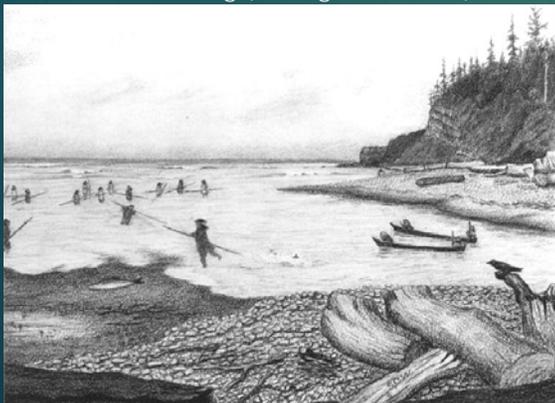




1890 drawing (UW digital archives)



Quinault values



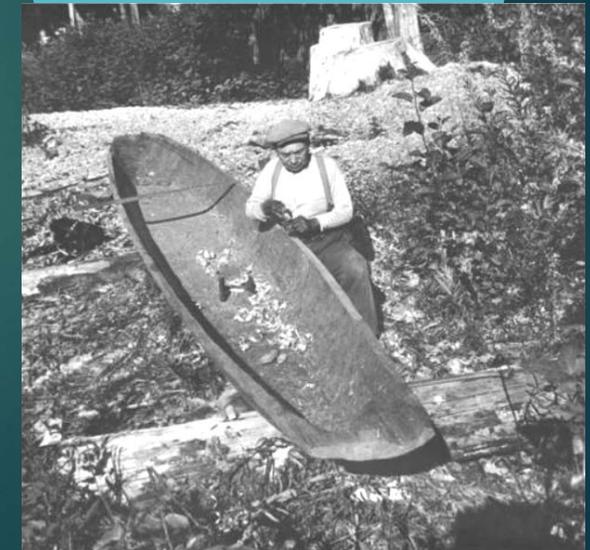
1886 - spearing netted salmon (UW digital archives)



1926 - Basket making (UW digital archives)



Tahola 1903 (UW digital archives)



Canoe making (UW digital archives)

Quinault place names for Joe Creek

ka'tsål̥xw = "throat"

no'ko'luktân = "come out to
the beach" – where boundary
met the beach; it was once
marked by cedar bark tied to
a pole.

[Olson 1936]



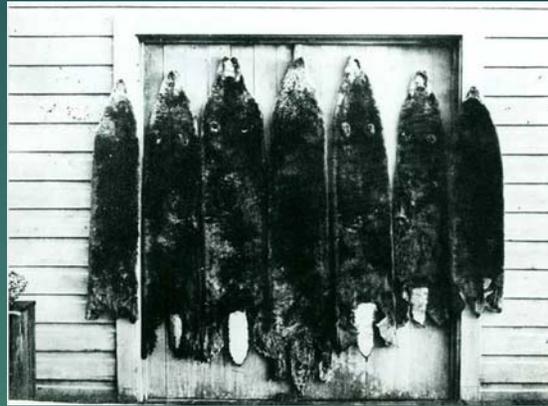


Euro-American settlement – Value as a source of wealth to exploit:

- 1860 – 1880: SEA OTTER HUNTER
- 1880 – 1895: RISE OF TIMBER PRODUCTION AND FISH CANNERIES

1860-1880: Sea Otter hunting

Sea otter pelts became known as “soft gold” because they were extremely thick and especially desired by the Chinese. A hunter could receive from \$50 to \$300 per pelt (\$1,200 to \$7,100 in today’s dollars), with silver-tipped pelts selling at maximum value.



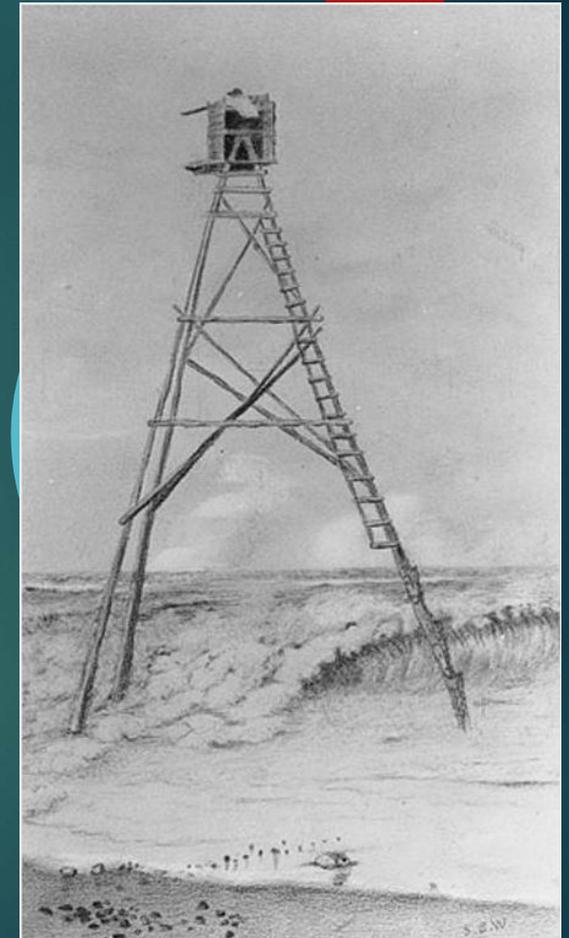
Late 1800s (UW digital archives)



Ca. 1900 - 45 caliber sharps (UW digital archives)



Sea otter



Ca. 1885 – hunting derrick (UW digital archives)

Romanticized Notion of Sea Otter Hunters

Quotes from the Aberdeen Herald:

H. Weatherall shot one of the silver tipped otters last week at Copalis Rock. This is one of the most valuable furs known and this single skin is probably worth about \$300.

(Aberdeen Herald, 5/3/1894)

There is probably no man on the harbor better known among the old settlers than H. W. Weatherall, the hero of Herbert Bashford's poem, "Copalis". For years his unerring rifle has pierced the heart of many a handsome sea otter, the ball sent from his dangerous perch high on Copalis rock.

(Aberdeen Herald, 9/13/1894)



Copalis Rock

First Settlers at Joe Creek: William and Susannah McFarland at Joe Creek (1870-1874)

Diary excerpts of Susannah McFarland Price Ede 1934:

At an early age, I married William O. J. McFarland of Elma. In a certain season he hunted sea otter on the Pacific Beach.. For some four spring-summer seasons, we lived in a log cabin located on Joe Creek..

At one time I never saw a white woman for 5 months. Now in the early years on the beach we did not go to Elma or up the Harbor very often for we were hunting, gathering seafood, and related activities..



The cook drowned on a passenger ship that went down.

In my patrolling the beach for the bodies of the sea otters which would float ashore after my husband shot them from his derrick, I found the body of the cook.

My husband received from \$50 to \$250 for the sea otter skins. Only once did we get the high figure—that was for an exceptionally fine skin called a "silver tip"... Buyers came through the district every 2-3 months.

Early Transportation

- ▶ In the early days, roads from Grays Harbor to the growing cities of Tacoma, Seattle, and Olympia were nothing more than rugged horse and wagon trails, primarily used by mail and supply carriers.
- ▶ A.O. Damon established a post at Oyehut (meaning "Place to Crossover") in 1868, for canoe portage. This became the southernmost point of a wagon route carrying mail and supplies up the coast to the Quinault Indian Reservation, much of it traversing the beach (Workman 1997).
- ▶ Indians often hired out to freight people and supplies by canoe.



Hauling



1880s - Rise of Timber Production and Fishing

- ▶ Deep ports allowed Grays Harbor to become a center of timber production and commercial fishing and shellfish collection.
- ▶ Capitalists from Michigan, California, and elsewhere flocked to Hoquiam and Aberdeen to seek profit from these resources.
- ▶ First mills established in 1882.
- ▶ By 1890, Aberdeen had 4 mills and a population of 2,000 people, two sash and door factories, 3 salmon canneries, and two banks.

1917 Copalis Lumber Co.
(UW digital archives)



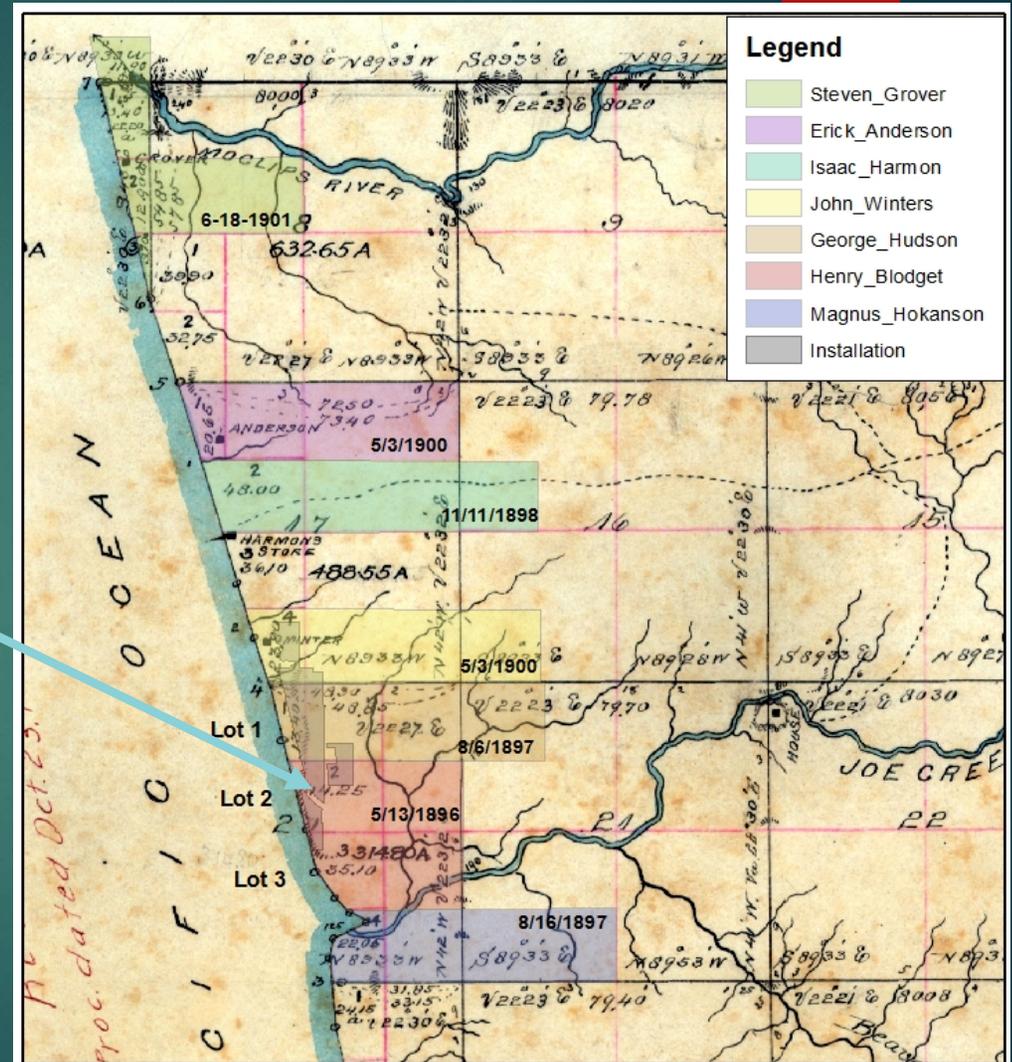
1916 - Copalis shellfish cannery (UW digital archives)

1892 – Government survey of Joe Creek area completed

Land open for homestead claims

Henry G. Blodget:

- Sea otter hunter
- Files a claim on Lots 2 and 3; later becomes the Navy Annex and town of Pacific Beach.
- Moves to claim in 1892 and builds cabin near Joe Creek.



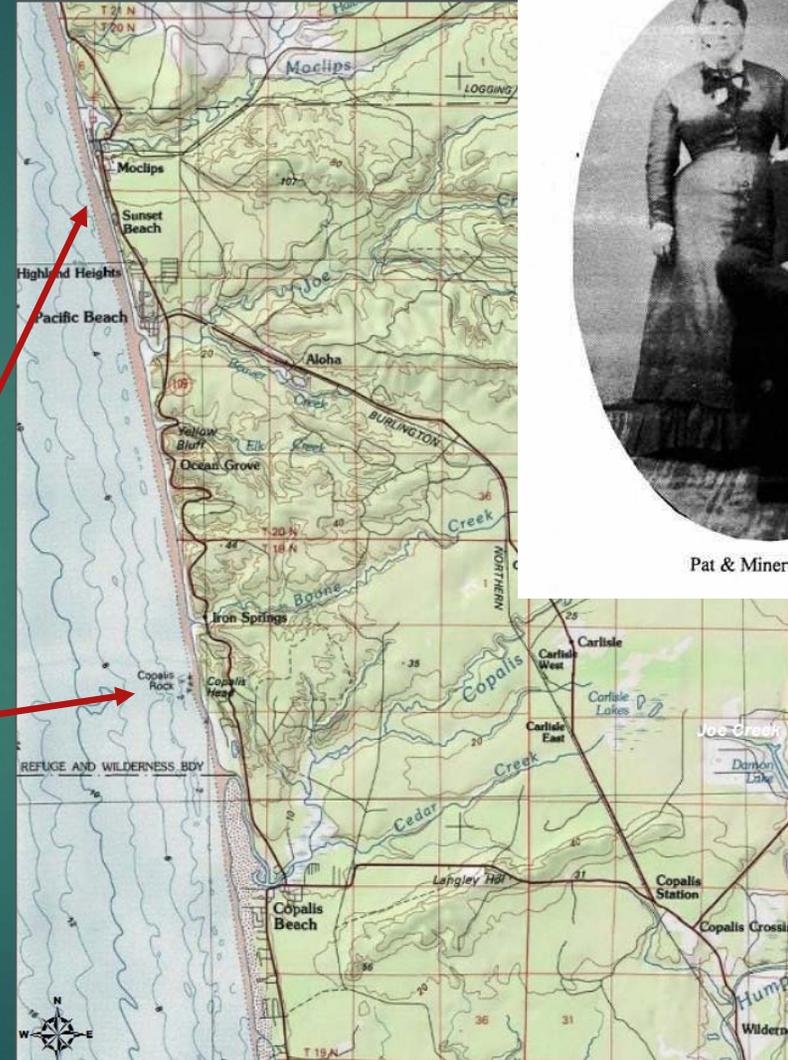
Henry G. Blodget:

- ▶ 1838 - Born in Massachusetts
- ▶ 1853 - Steamer to Portland at age 15
- ▶ 1861 – Met Patrick Roundtree while working in the Dalles, OR; hunted together through the winter.
- ▶ 1864 - Began sea otter hunting on North Beach with Roundtree.

Autobiography of PH Roundtree, Lewis County, 1938---

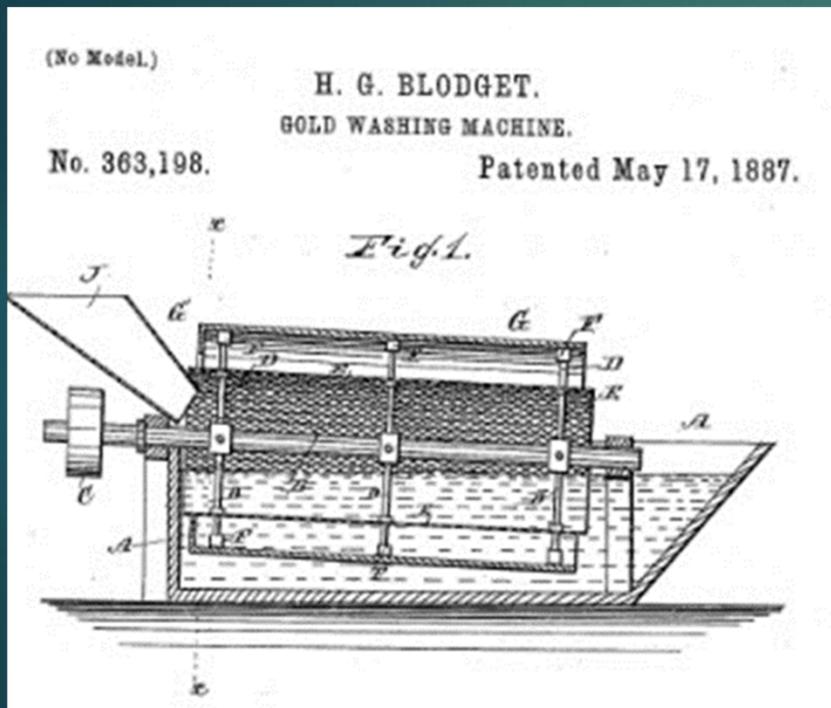
"We each had a cabin. My cabin was at Moclips, his cabin was at Copalis Rock.

Part of the time we stayed at one cabin, and then at the other, just as the otter shift their feeding ground."



Pat & Minerva

Blodgett's Gold Washing machine



1886 - HG Blodgett of North Beach, is on his way to Harrisburg, Oregon for purpose of making several machines for the **extraction of gold** from the black sand on the coast. He has worked for twelve years and has recently arrived at a solution.

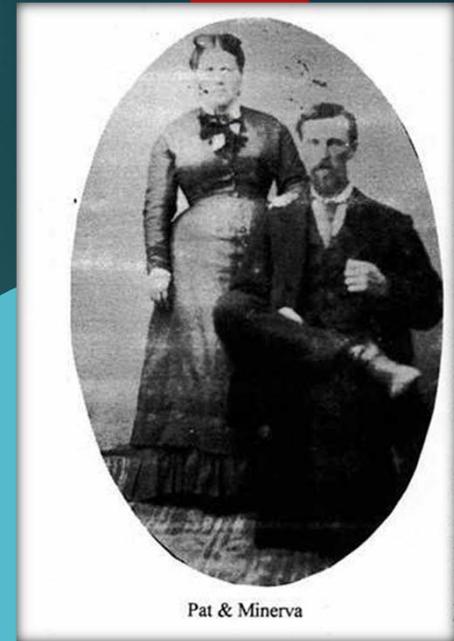
(Aberdeen Herald, 3/19/1886)

1897 - The gold hunters, who have been camping at the mouth of **Joe Creek** for some weeks, experimenting on the sand of this region, broke camp recently, finding the sand would only yield 30 cents per ton and, therefore, non-paying.

[Aberdeen Herald, July 29, 1897]

Patrick Roundtree Settles at Joe Creek

- ▶ 1892 – Blodget sells 1-acre of his property to Roundtree and wife, Minerva, if they build a \$500 house.
- ▶ 1892 – Roundtree builds an \$800 house – the first painted house north of Grays Harbor
- ▶ He shipped the lumber from Hoquiam in a scow to Oyehut, then up the beach in his wagon.
- ▶ 1896 – Blodget, after obtaining a patent on his homestead, sells most of it to Roundtree, up and coming land developer.





Recreational Playground:

RENEWED VALUE IN LANDSCAPE AND NATURE

North Beach is rapidly gaining a reputation as a summer resort

(Aberdeen Herald, 8/15/1895)

Joe Creek abounds this year in the finest speckled trout I have ever seen. Parties visit the stream almost every year for a sack of the speckled beauties.

(Aberdeen Herald, 7/29/1897).



Glamping in 1924
(Anderson/Middleton
Co.)



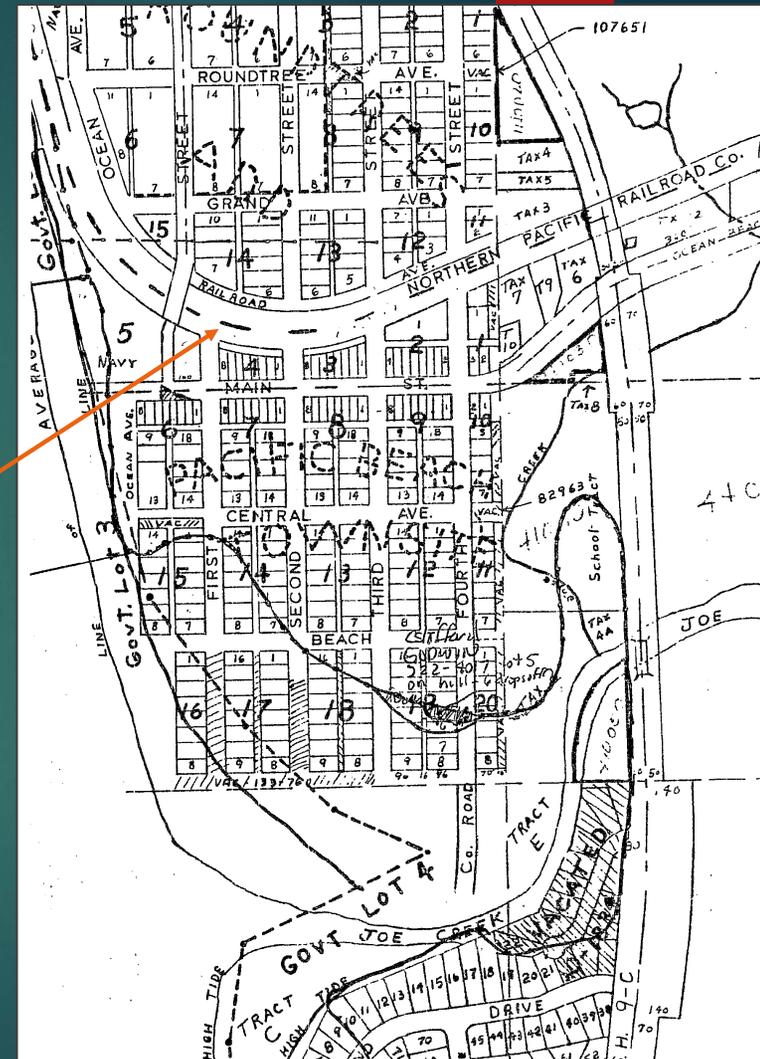
1908 (Anderson/Middleton
Co.)

An Easier Way to Travel



Excursion Train to Pacific Beach, 1914 (Anderson/Middleton Co.)

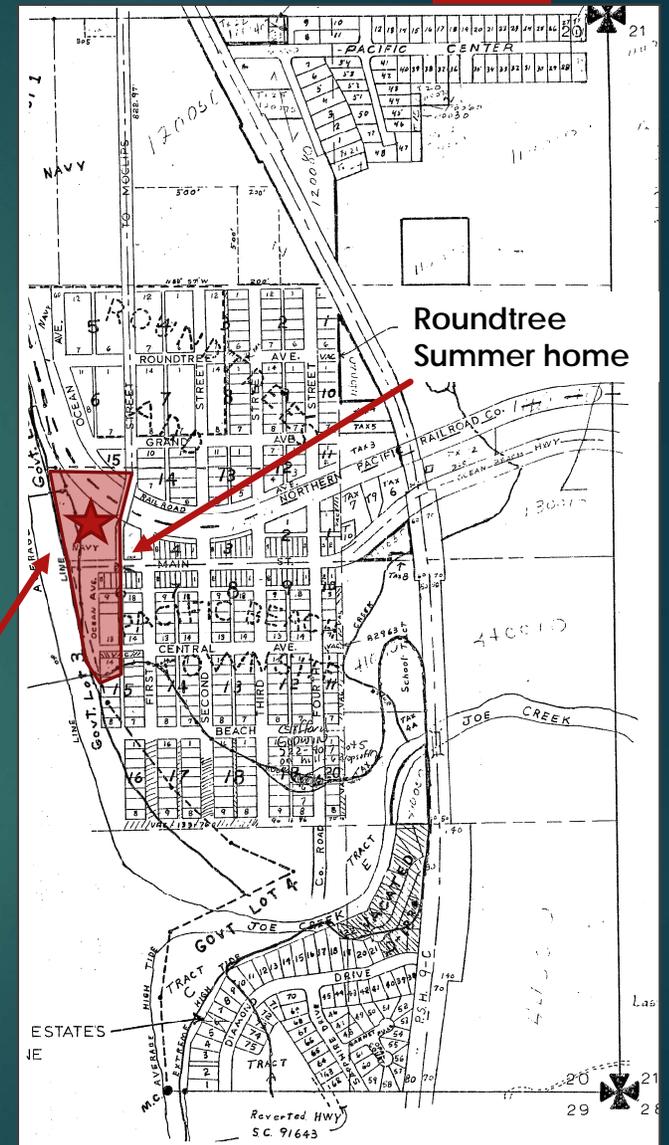
- ▶ 1903 – Railroad spur to Pacific Beach is completed (Davidson 2001)
- ▶ 1905 – Spur to Moclips ----- **Roundtree Cut**
- ▶ 1909 – New road replaces existing log-planked road to Copalis Crossing
- ▶ 1915 – Upgraded to an automobile road
- ▶ 1932 - State coastal road between Copalis and Pacific Beach completed with an automobile bridge over Joe Creek east of 4th Street (Marriott 2015)



Museum of North Beach, Moclips

A New Town Platted:

- 1896 - Blodget sells most of Lots 2 and 3 to Patrick Roundtree, successful real estate developer in later life.
- 1903 – Railroad spur reaches Joe Creek.
- 1904 – Patrick plats a new town site on Lot 3.
- Possible names of the new town? Bluffton, Illahee Beach, Roundtree, Ocean View, Pacific Beach (Roundtree 1938).
- 1906 – Roundtree sells 35 acres in Lot 3 to three Hoquiam businessmen who build a hotel on the site of Roundtree's \$800 home – **The Quinault Inn**.
- 1906 – Roundtree builds a new summer home across from the hotel.





Quinault Inn, ca. 1906
(Poulson Museum)



Pat & Minerva



Second Roundtree summer residence, ca. 1906 (Polson Museum)



Pacific Beach, ca. 1906 – 1909
(Polson Museum)

1911 – Carl Cooper's Pacific Beach Hotel –

- Grand Opening in June
- *Cooper added new wing to accommodate a total of 60 guests, landscaped the grounds, and put in swings and other forms of entertainment.*

(Aberdeen Herald, 7/22/1912)

- Over time the hotel became known as the **Honeymoon Hotel**



Lobby/Sun Room in 1910 (Anderson/Middleton Co.)

The hotel was always full being one of the most popular resorts on North Beach.

(Aberdeen Herald, 10/6/1914)

Pacific Beach Hotel Burned in 1914

The fire started from the stove in the dining room about 6:30 o'clock and was not discovered for some minutes, when the Japanese cook, who was on duty in the kitchen with a boy, suddenly found the room in flames. He immediately gave the alarm...

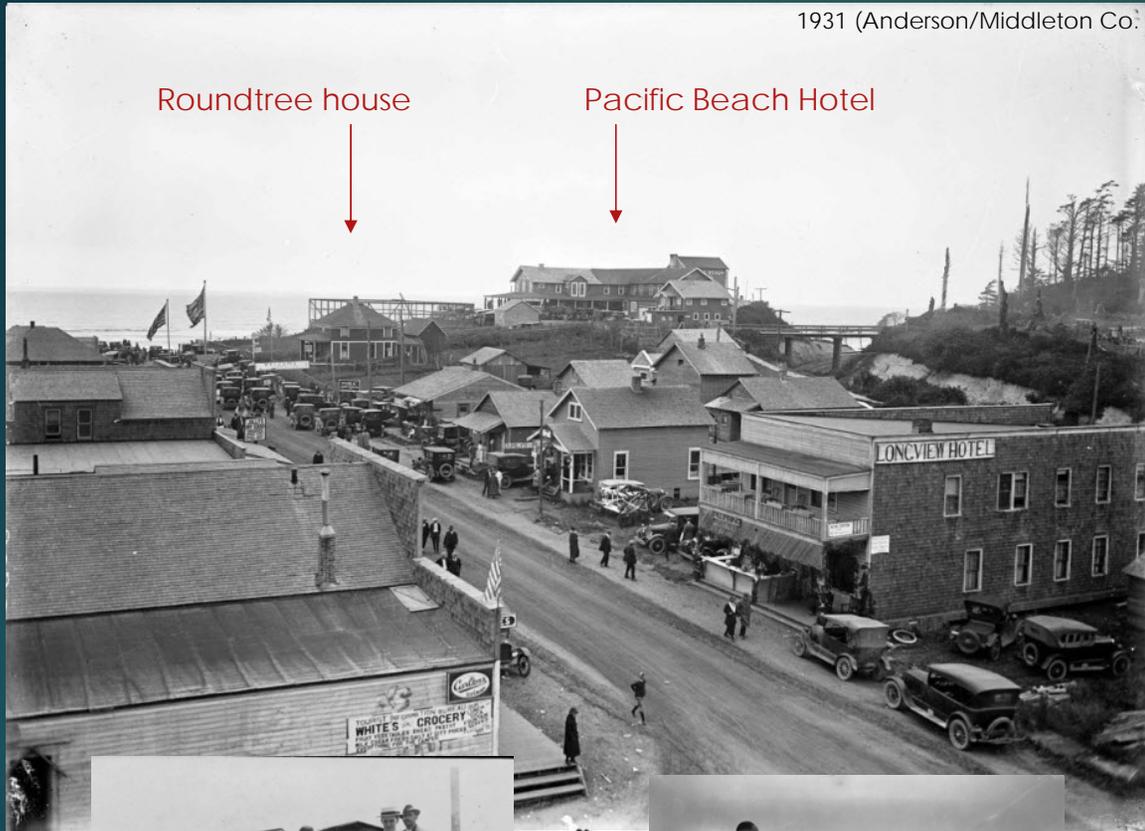
All the inmates lost all their clothes and effects, except what they stood in... All that was saved of the contents of the hotel was from the first story, residents of Pacific Beach and particularly the Northern Pacific railway employees, forming themselves into an efficient salvage corps and rescuing the piano, safe, cash register, Victrola and dining room tables. Mr. Cooper's auto was also saved, though the garage was burned... There was no means of fighting the fire, beyond the inadequate bucket method, and the structure was doomed from the first.

(Aberdeen Herald, 10/6/1914)

❖ Cooper rebuilds the hotel in 1915



1915 – Anderson/Middleton Co.



1931 (Anderson/Middleton Co.)

Roundtree house

Pacific Beach Hotel



1920 (Anderson/Middleton Co.)



1915 (Anderson/Middleton Co.)



1925-bathing beauties with photographer (Anderson/Middleton Co.)



Ca 1925 -beach picnic (Anderson/Middleton Co.)

1932 – Hotel Remodeled



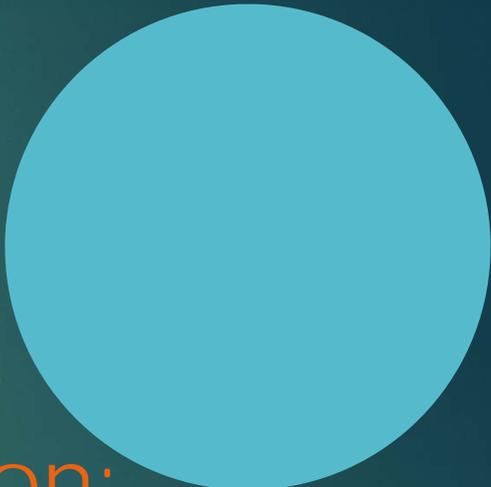
1938 (Anderson/Middleton Co.)



1938 - Sun room (Anderson/Middleton Co.)



1938 - Cabins (Anderson/Middleton Co.)



Navy and Air Force Occupation:

VALUED FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

Three Basic Phases:

WWII:

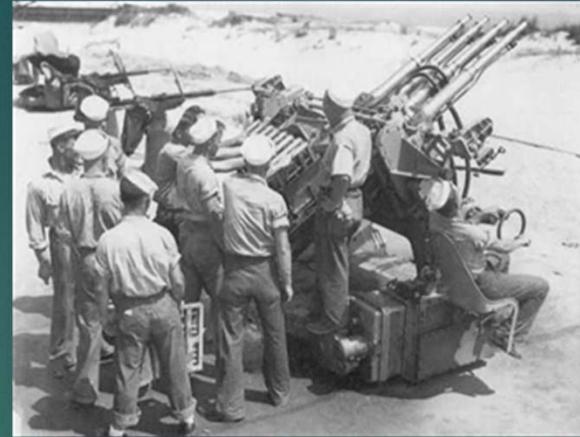
- ▶ 1941 – 1945: U.S. Navy anti-aircraft gunnery school

COLD WAR DEFENSES:

- ▶ 1948 – 1952: 505th Aircraft Control and Warning Group established a radar site to detect radar. The site temporarily filled a gap in the coastal radar defense system.
- ▶ 1958 – 1987: Sound Surveillance System (SOSUS) station to detect and track enemy submarines.

WWII Anti-Aircraft Gunnery School (1941-1945)

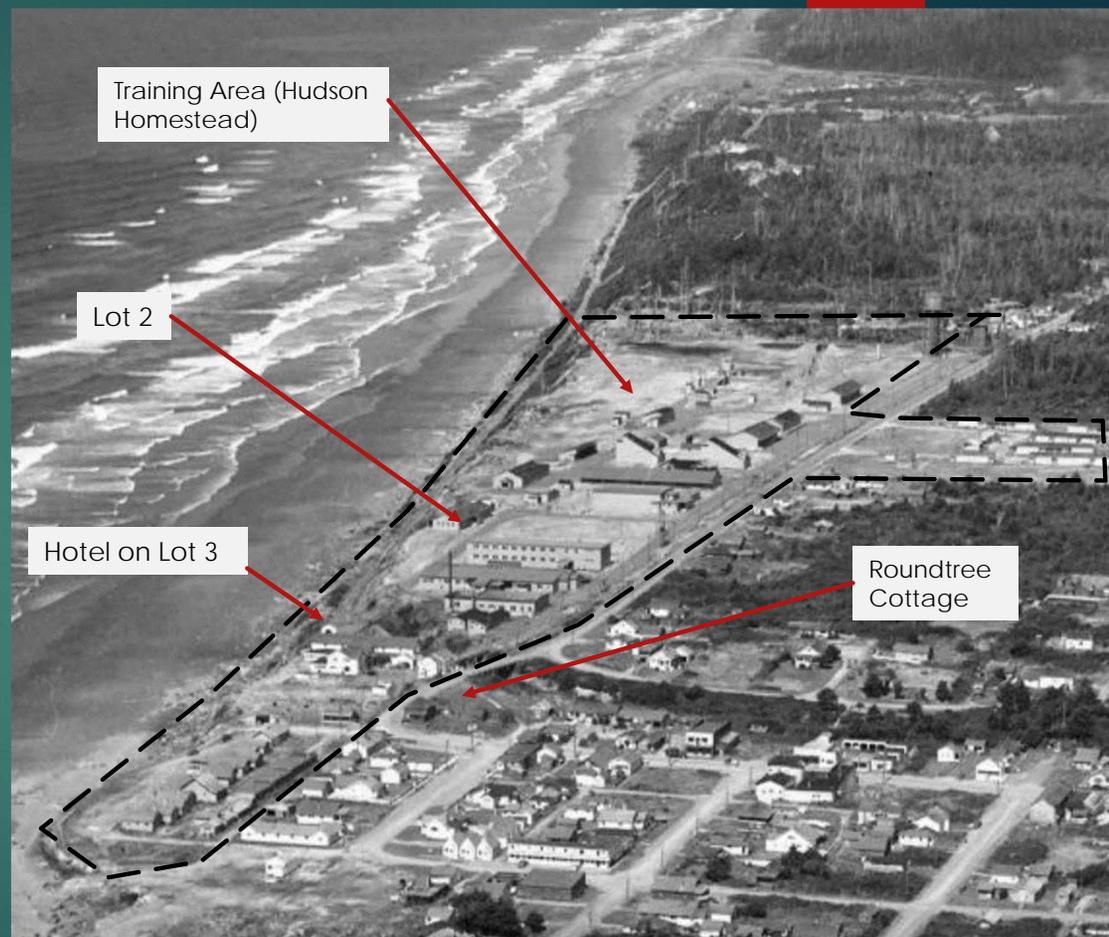
- ▶ 1941: Navy opens training facility on Blodget/Roundtree Lots 2 and 3.
- ▶ One of 300 small training facilities; offered additional skills after basic training.
- ▶ Trained 300 recruits per week; later 1000 recruits per week.
- ▶ Pacific Beach was slow to welcome the Navy because the first group of recruits left the town in near ruin. After that, they were confined to the base.



Then Came the War 1974.....

"Things became lively around here. Every Monday morning three hundred boys were brought in for training. Airplanes from Westport flew over the town with nylon sleeves streaming behind them and the town shook with the impact of 16mm guns. We all removed pictures from the walls as they were always crooked. After the war there wasn't a foundation in town that didn't need fixing...The nylon sleeves were collected and used for many things. My father had a very brilliant pair of orange pajamas."

- Hotel converted to barracks, cafeteria, classrooms, and offices.
- Commanding officer and other officers moved into guest cottages.
- Property north of Roundtree Cut became core training area.
 - Trainers
 - Fire control towers
 - Ammo storage
 - Firing Range



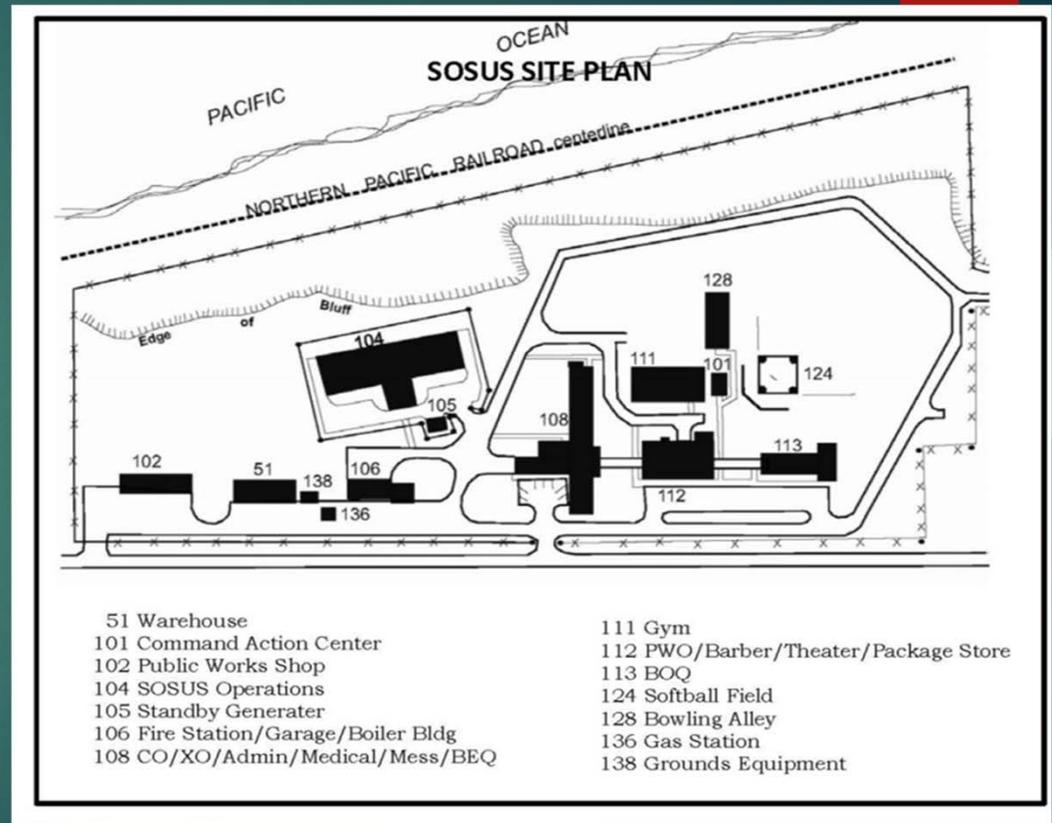
1948 (Anderson/Middleton Co.)

Cold War Air Force Radar Station (1948-1952) – Enemy Detection



Cold War SOSUS – More Enemy Detection

- SOSUS = Sound Surveillance System
- 1958 – Commissioned
- Submarine detection
- 40 hydrophones attached to cables laid out 100 miles along continental shelf
- Command: 11 officers, 104 enlisted, 17 civilians.
- 1959 - Constructed 30 Capehart housing units requiring demolition of the old hotel.
- At end of the Cold War, decreased use; more application for scientific projects such as tracking whale vocalizations.





1958 – construction (Anderson/Middleton Co)



New capehart housing



1958 – barracks (Anderson/Middleton Co)



1958 – construction (Anderson/Middleton Co)



1958 – soda bar (Anderson/Middleton Co)



1958 – kitchen (Anderson/Middleton Co)



Recreational Playground Once Again



- IN 1987, NAVAL STATION EVERETT TURNED OVER DAILY OPERATIONS TO THE MORALE, WELFARE, AND RECREATION (MWR) DIVISION OF THE DOD FOR USE AS A RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTER.
- IN 1989, THE NAVY PURCHASED PART OF THE WINTER'S HOMESTEAD AND ESTABLISHED A RV PARK.



Current Navy Annex

In Summary:

- ▶ The collective experience and perceptions of this physical place—the scenic landscape, wild coast line, and natural resources—have changed over the last 200 years.
- ▶ With each change, those who have lived here have viewed and valued the landscape somewhat differently. The collective experience defines this change.
- ▶ History shows us that these perceptions and values are transitory.
- ▶ Consider what are your perceptions and values of this place?

QUESTIONS?