

THE VIKING VOICE: O.I. HIGH SCHOOL PAPER

# BLAST FROM THE PAST

*Orcas' history put into a scrapbook of words*

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The following information came from stories in an old wooden scrapbook engraved with our high school initials, which is hidden in the blue cabinets of the Journalism room—newspaper clippings that some one decided to save.

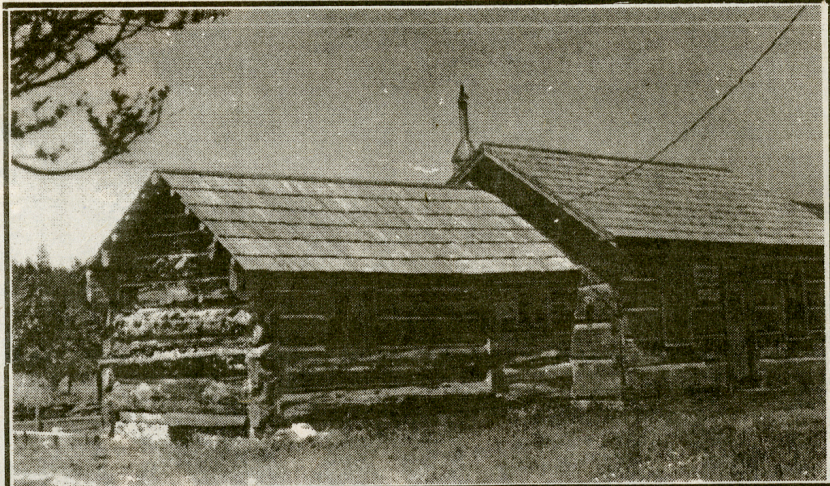
Clippings from August 1956 to December 1958 report on the origin of the Orcas Historical Society and its early collecting efforts: "The Orcas Island Historical Society is planning to gather the factual history of the island. In order to do this we shall need the help of present and former residents."

The Society requested information about homesteads: names; when property was granted; by which President; a description of the location; descendants and any interesting information on them; and historical data about the property.

The founders of the Historical Society also requested information about such topics as fruit growing, animal raising, lime kilns, brickyards, schools, churches, organizations, businesses, fishing, hunting, trapping, Indian buildings and Indian massacres. The Historical Society had a huge response to their request for information.

The most helpful donations in the beginning were the cabins. Quite a few were given up because of the bad condition they were in.

"The cabin that became the nucleus of the museum was



BOEDE AND JACKSON CABINS

erected in 1891 by John Boede. An older cabin, built in the early 1870's by a man named Jackson, was joined to the Boede house. The Jackson cabin was complete with original door and a place for the cat to go in and out. The Henry Kerchhoff cabin was added next, completing one side of the u-shaped arrangement. The Woodsey Kimple house was to follow. The last cabin was built by John Boede, Jr., the only one not built by a homesteader."

When putting together the Museum, Mr. Hall, a retired teacher, took apart each cabin and numbered every log. Logs that were too rotten were replaced with timber that had to be rough-hewn to give it the old look. Roofs were mended with lumber from the old Templins store. Some of the shiplap was cut from trees killed by fire in 1895.

Other things donated included an organ from the 1840's given by the old Methodist church; a large collection of Indian relics,

rugs and artifacts; tools used by lime stone workers; Indian canoe paddles; and an old trunk containing records from one of the old stores.

Since then lots of other things have been donated to contribute to the Museum and it's collection of our past.

Visit the Museum this summer and see the exhibit paying tribute to Orcas camps—Four Winds/Westward Ho and Camp Orkila. Better yet, volunteer some of your time to help at the Museum. Talk to Nancy Wrightsman for details on how you can help.

