



HISTORY

Carl Weber

By: Jim Long

Born June 4, 1904 in Odessa, Georgia to Carl Weber and Magdalena Bernhardt of the Frank Colony, Russia. The parents were Volga Germans and immigrated to the US from Germany in 1905. The three arrived at Ellis Island July 12, 1905 on the Frederich De Grosse ship out of Bremen Germany.

Carl had Sisters Emma Barbara Weber, Lydia Anna Weber and Brother Adolph Rudolph Weber born in Milwaukee Wisconsin. All of whom lived in the San Juan's during the twenties and thirties. Lydia lived on Orcas into the fifties.

Carl passed away December 10, 1984 in Westsound on Orcas Island and is interred at Mt. Baker Cemetery.

He served in the US Army in the twenties and was a Lieutenant in the Washington State Guard during World War two. Carl was active in the local Oddfellows Lodge and was a charter member of the Orcas Island Lions Club. He was the foreman for the local lime company about 1930 on Orcas having moved from San Juan Island. While foreman he started his own radio repair company on the side and later served his apprenticeship in electrical wiring and became licensed and certified by the state of Washington. Carl saw a need for a local taxi and bought a new Plymouth station wagon in May of 1940 the driver being his sister Lydia. In 1945 he was the only licensed electrician on the island. Carl opened Sunnyside Electric in December 1945 offering large appliances and small electrical items so that islanders wouldn't have to go off island to buy. This store combined his electrical business and radio repair business under one roof in Eastsound next to the Episcopal Church. In 1950 the store moved to a new location on the corner of High School road and North Beach road where he worked till he was 80.

My sister Carole and I were Navy brats. My dad was at sea most of the time so our mother bought a cottage on North Beach Road to be close to her family. Our Uncle Carl was authority figure in our lives while our dad was doing his duty. He was fun and as a little kid

he outfitted me with small electrical tools and took me on jobs with him. Later on when I had obtained my agricultural driving permit he followed me around to make sure I didn't speed. I can still see those old yellow headlights in my rear view mirror. He taught me respect for elderly folks and also provided an ear when I needed to talk. Carl was a real strong he man in those days but still had a weak stomach when it came to bailing out a deer. He left that to me but gave directions from twenty feet away. He was a great guy and I think of him all the time. If there was a dance on the island you could be sure that Carl was there as he loved to dance and many ladies had the pleasure of dancing with him.



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