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Friday Harbor Journal

*San Juan County's
Official Newspaper*

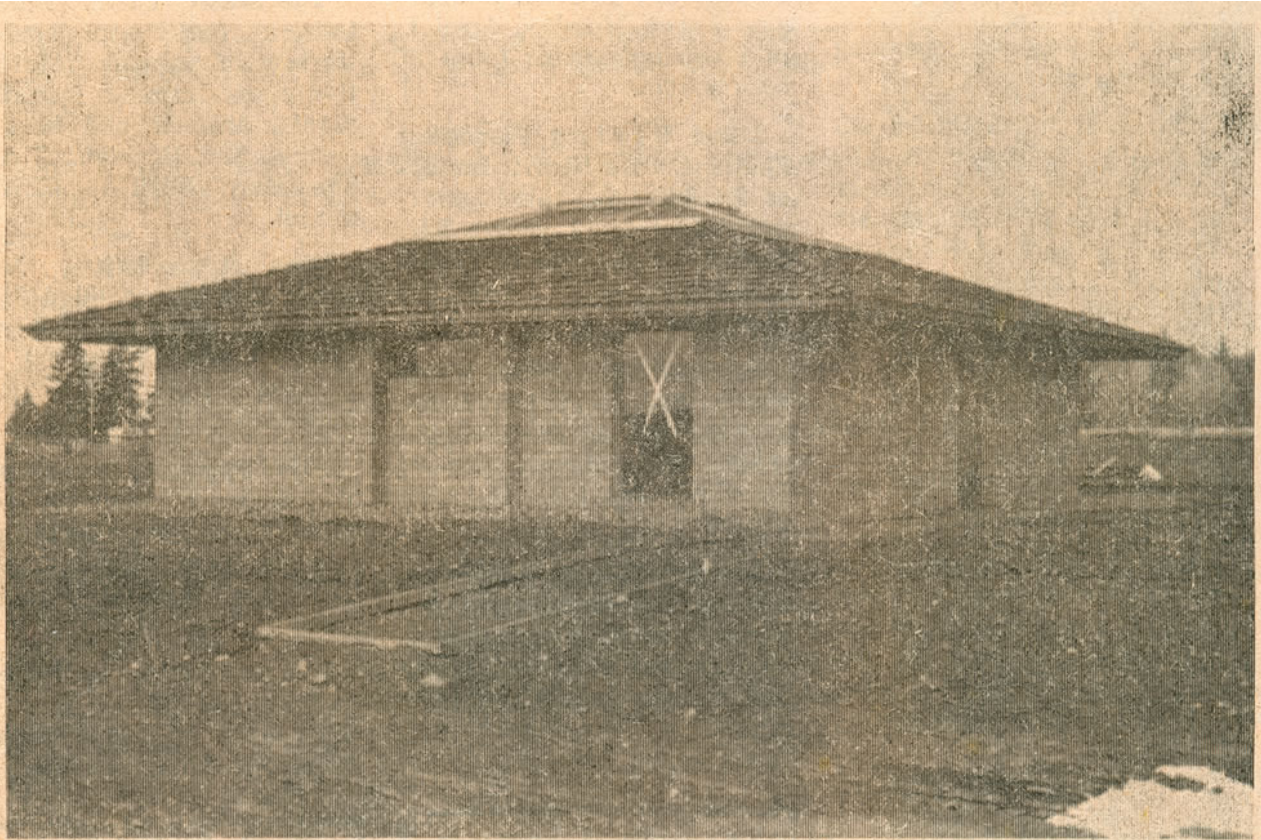
"A SQUARE DEAL FOR EVERYBODY"

THURS, MARCH 21, 1974 10c

FRIDAY HARBOR, WASHINGTON

OUR 67th YEAR NO. 43

First clinic, first doctor for lucky Lopez Island



LOPEZ CLINIC — The Catherine Washburn Memorial Clinic, pictured under construction, is scheduled for open house March 31 at Lopez Village.

By DAVID PINKHAM

Open House at the Catherine Washburn Memorial Clinic is set for Sunday, March 31. The imminent opening of the clinic at Lopez is the culmination of a tremendous community effort to provide medical service to Lopezians.

Funding the project has been an uphill struggle since 1971, but, through persistent efforts of hard-working Lopez residents, about \$35,000 has been raised to date. By obtaining bank loans and generous donations, the clinic board overcame the frustration of being turned down for government matching funds.

According to Charles Washburn, president of the clinic's Board of Trustees, the final cost of the entire facility will be roughly \$60,000. This includes \$40,000 for the building with the revisions, taxes, and extra fees, about \$10,000 for the X-ray machine, \$5,000

in other equipment, and almost \$5,000 for cabinets and other interior work; \$25,000 is still owed to the bank.

Dr. George Dengler will decide whether other doctors besides himself will be allowed to use the clinic facilities in non-emergency situations, or to what extent they may use them, according to Washburn. Washburn pointed out it is understood that in case of emergency the clinic will always be available, since this is one of its key functions in the community.

The rent that Dr. Dengler will pay for use of the clinic will increase as the doctor's ability to pay increases. It is understood it will take a while for Dengler's practice to build up to a normal level.

The clinic has a large doctor's office, a large waiting room, two examination rooms one of which will also be equipped as a treatment and X-ray room, and a labora-

tory. The examination tables are fully-equipped demonstration models, which were purchased for \$350 each instead of the usual \$700 apiece.

Charles Washburn credits Commissioner Pat Roe as being the driving force behind the clinic, both as an idea and as a hard reality. When Catherine Washburn died in September, 1971, Pat Roe wanted to make a memorial to this woman who was so well-known for her generous and unselfish qualities.

Roe approached the Washburn family with his idea of starting a building fund for a medical clinic. The idea was

warmly-received, and \$2,500 poured in, donated by those who felt that their money could be more appropriately spent on the facility (in Mrs. Washburn's memory) than on the buying of flowers.

Everybody knew that something needed to be done about the lack of medical service on Lopez Island. Many remembered the visits Dr. Heath used to make, in which he would see patients at the barber shop in Lopez Village—no privacy, no facilities, no waiting room, no space. People waited outside the barber shop to see him.

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Lopez clinic

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In view of the need for a clinic, the hard work of raising money was under way. The Lopez Village Corporation donated the land for the proposed building, a half-acre site behind the Lopez Market. Efforts were made to obtain Department of Health, Education, and Welfare federal matching funds under the Hill-Burton Act, but the trip to Olympia led to only a "Sorry, we have no money" line. It was decided to make the attempt without help, and simply rely on the generosity of the community.

Architect John Ottenheimer helped draw up plans and his preliminary cost estimate was a minimum of \$24,000 for the building alone. It was understood from the beginning that equipment would cost about \$5,000, and that there would be various fees and taxes which would have to be tacked on to the actual building costs.

In 1973, when the bids went out, an Orcas firm proposed a \$46,000 figure, but this was immediately thrown out. Poole General Construction Co. of Lopez put in a bid of about \$37,000 for the building, and Norman Smith proposed a bid of just over \$34,000. These were all too high, and after the revisions, Poole gave the lowest bid—just under \$30,000. For the clinic board, this meant about \$32,000 when taxes and various fees were tacked on. Many

modifications in the plans were required to get the figure down to a manageable level.

Letters were written to off-island, Lopez landowners, and the total donations rose to \$14,000. This encouraged the board and the contract was signed with Poole Construction. Work on the building was begun in August, 1973.

There have been various delays. And when Dr. Dengler agreed to come permanently to Lopez, the revisions and extra equipment needed to accommodate a physician instead of a nurse practitioner drove the costs considerably higher.

But, despite the obstacles, the clinic has become a reality. Many people have given time, effort, and money to the cause. Since 1971, 46 people have died for whose memory money has been donated to the clinic.

The Women's Auxiliary has raised money and given much time. There have been various benefits for the clinic fund. On Friday, March 22, there will be a musical benefit for the clinic at the Lopez Grange Hall at 8 p.m. More money is still needed to make payments to the bank.

The Board of Trustees of the Memorial Clinic includes: Charles Washburn, president; Howard S. Cole, vice-president; Patrick Roe, secretary-treasurer; June Scherer, trustee; William W. Carpenter, Jr., trustee.