Doing the paperwork—then and now

In 1971, most people paid for their medical care by paying cash or getting a bill from a doctor. The person paying the bill then had to do the paperwork to get the money back—either by going through a bank or by appealing to the insurance company. This was a time when doctors and hospitals did not have electronic records, and patients had to keep track of their own medical expenses.

The Lopez Island Medical Clinic was started in 1971 to provide medical care to the community. In the beginning, the clinic was a small space with a basic set of equipment. Over time, the clinic grew and expanded, adding more staff and equipment.

The first few years were challenging, as the clinic had to raise money to purchase medical equipment and build a new clinic. The community came together to support the clinic, and donations were received from individuals and organizations.

As the clinic grew, the paperwork increased. The clinic had to keep track of patient information, medical records, and financial transactions. Employees had to be trained in how to properly manage the paperwork.

The clinic also had to ensure that all paperwork was signed and filed properly. This was important for maintaining medical records and ensuring that patients were receiving the best care possible.

Today, the clinic has a full-time nurse practitioner and a team of staff members. The clinic has also added new equipment and expanded its services. The paperwork has become more organized and electronic, making it easier to manage.

Looking to the future

The Lopez Island Medical Clinic is proud to have served the community for over 40 years. We are committed to continuing to provide quality care to our patients and to keeping pace with the changing needs of our community.

We encourage you to contact us if you have any questions or if you would like to support the clinic in any way. Together, we can continue to make Lopez Island a healthier place to live.

Health Matters

Catherine Washburn Memorial Association

Lopez, WA 98261

Phone 360-468-2245

CWMW Mission Statement

In 1971, a small group of Island residents established the Catherine Washburn Memorial Association to provide medical care to the people of Lopez Island.

Since then, the clinic has grown and expanded, providing a full range of medical services to our community. The clinic is committed to providing quality care to all patients, regardless of their ability to pay.

In recent years, the clinic has faced significant challenges, including a decline in funding and an increase in medical costs. However, the clinic has remained committed to serving the community and providing the best possible care.

We are grateful for the support of our community and look forward to continuing to provide quality care for many years to come.
Clinic turns thirty
continued from page 1

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It’s fitting that Charlie Washburn was the first scheduled patient when the Clinic opened. “There was no physician, I didn’t have one in my name,” Dr. Washburn says. “George told me it was the only physical exam I’d get for the rest of my life.”

Dr. Dengler recalls he was busy from the very first day. “There was a huge backlog of undiagnosed and untreated chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes, and cancer.” He and Hildegard remembers, “We had quite a group of patient’s – plane crashes, motorcycle double-mutilations, and so on. We had a lot of working in the house.”

Dr. Dengler adds, “People would bring in injured pigs, dogs, cats. It was tempoing, I almost never treated them.”

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