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San Juans, Islands of Contentment, Draw Visitors Seeking Relaxation

**Motorloggers Travel
To Puget Paradise
By Auto and Ferries**

The following is a condensation of a motorlog appearing in the May 23 issue of NORTH-WEST foto section, The Sunday Oregonian magazine. It is one of an annual series sponsored jointly by The Oregonian and the Oregon State Motor association.

BY KEITH HANSEN
Staff Writer, The Oregonian

Pervading atmosphere of the San Juan islands, sensed even after a brief visit, is the contentment of the islanders with their away-from-it-all existence. A good many of them left homes and jobs on the mainland to settle on the isolated islands, which make up San Juan county, Wash., after first feeling the spell while on vacation. These newcomers now outnumber the "natives," and the process continues. A resort owner on the sleepy island of Lopez said one trouble with the resort business was that this summer's paying guest, like as not, will buy a bit of beach property and will be back next summer building his own cabin. She didn't say it maliciously, however. She was happy about it. She, too, came for a visit eight years ago and came back to stay. San Juan islanders love folks who love their islands.

Isles Number 172
The 172 small, beautiful islands, which are tops of a mountain range that sank beneath the sea, lie north of Puget sound between the United States mainland and Canada's Vancouver island, within a comfortable day's drive from Portland.

If you relish the quiet life, try them for a full vacation. Should you yearn for bright lights after a brief interval, give them the quick tour by ferryboat and car. In the familiar white Oregon State Motor association Ford, we drove to Anacortes, gateway to the San Juans, and spent the night there. We spent three days touring Lopez, Orcas and San Juan islands, the regular ferry stops; then drove down Whidbey island to Keystone, ferried to Port Townsend and came home



Motorlog took writer north to Anacortes, then by ferry to three of San Juans; home via Whidbey island and Hood Canal route.

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White motorlog car pauses at coast guard lighthouse on San Juan island, county seat for the Puget sound group. Across the water is Vancouver island, reached by Washington state ferries.

via the scenic Hood Canal highway. There was no need to hurry at any time in the trip of about 700 miles, a good part of it over San Juan island roads.

Washington state ferries offer regular year-round passage to the San Juans, and during the vacation season through them to Sidney, on Vancouver island. The ferry ride itself is a scenic marvel, winding among the many beautiful islands, sometimes within slingshot distance of the shoreline.

Lopez island, our first stop, is somewhat flat but with the beautifully rugged, rocky shore typical of the San Juans. Farms, many of them tended by fishermen in their off season, dot the landscape. It's a great place for complete isolation from city life, and only recently has it become resort conscious.

Resorts Offer Cabins
Orcas, the largest and most picturesque of the islands, is the most popular with vacationers. Some 35 resorts make the tourist dollar a most important part of the island's limited economy. As on the other islands, resorts offer chiefly housekeeping cabins, comfortable but unpretentious. Average rental is \$35 a week for two, with \$5 extra for each additional person.

On Orcas is Moran state park, 6000 acres, most of it within virgin forest, with four lakes and camp grounds. Orcas' prime attraction is Mt. Constitution, 2400 feet, highest point on the islands. Its stone observation tower affords one of the world's most spectacular marine views.

The San Juans lie calmly below, seemingly almost under foot. There in the near distance is Bellingham, there Anacortes; snow-capped Mt. Baker and the

Cascade mountains line in one direction, Vancouver island's peaks in another and the Olympic range in another.

Artificial vacation excitement on Orcas, as on the other islands, is almost non-existent. You fish—for salmon on the troll, for bottom fish near the rocks or for trout in the lakes—you go hiking, you sit in the sun away from your office. Take your choice.

That a great many people love restful San Juan vacations is indicated by the fact that accommodations are crowded in July and August. The traveler should have a reservation in those months.

San Juan Historical
San Juan island, site of Friday Harbor, the county seat, hasn't the scenic attraction of Orcas, but the fishing is just as good and the island history is here—along with the island doctor (who uses a private plane), theater, and liquor store.

Here was the final boundary conflict between the United States and Great Britain. Each nation claimed the islands, and in the 1850s each occupied a part of San Juan island. The old block house of the English camp still stands, along with some other buildings.

Friday Harbor's annual Rendezvous, this year scheduled August 14, is a summer highlight, a free salmon barbecue for visitors. This year plans are afoot to feed a crowd of 3500.

Game is so plentiful in the islands that residents look on their small deer and pheasants as pests. San Juan island itself has so many rabbits, offspring of a colony of Belgian hares, that high schoolers, it's said, make spending money from a modern type "snipe hunt"—blinding the rabbits with bright searchlights, then netting them!

1954 Wool Support Price Announced by Agricultural Department This Week

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced a National average support price of 53.2 cents a pound on the 1954 wool clip. This is equal to 90% of the parity price for wool as of March 30, and is one tenth of a cent above last year's National average support price and one cent below the 1952 support.

Producers may borrow up to 70% of the estimated value while waiting for appraisal of the wool. This temporary loan (maturing in six months) may then be converted to a loan maturing April 30, 1955. This is a non-recourse loan which becomes a sale to the Government at the support

price if the wool is not redeemed by that date.

Applications for loans are made by the producers through wool handlers who have been approved by Commodity Credit Corporation to handle Government wool. Loans may be made by Banks acting as lending agencies for CCC or the producer may borrow direct from CCC through his approved wool handler.

If new legislation is enacted for wool price support it is contemplated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that any borrowers under the present plan would be eligible under an new plan when it goes into effect.

The Mill City Enterprise gives you news of the entire canyon area each week. Why not have it delivered to you each week for \$2.50 per year?

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--Mill Ends--

Mrs. Grace Morgan of Stayton, spent Sunday here visiting at the homes of her sons, Tom and Clyde Morgan and their families.

Mr. and Mrs. Arlo Tuers and four sons planned to leave Wednesday of this week by train, for a two weeks' trip to Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Richards (Wanda Vandermer) and small son, have moved into the former Pound house, located near the Hilltop store.

Visiting here Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. H. I. Plymale, were Mr. and Mrs. Ray Plymale and daughter and two sisters and Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Plymale, all of Lebanon.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Walkup and Mr. and Mrs. Perry Willoughby drove to Silverton Sunday where they enjoyed viewing the Iris gardens in that area.

Representing the Santiam Rebekahs at the State Convention in Grants Pass last week were Dean Jackson, Ida Fleetwood and Antonia Thomas. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Brisbin, Gates, were also there on a visit.

Dale Bassett of Los Angeles, arrived here Sunday to visit at the Otto Witt home and at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Bassett in Lyons. Mrs. Bassett and son have been visiting at the home of her parents, the Otto Witts for the past six weeks.

A meeting of the Mill City Boosters will be held at Fellowship hall Thursday night at 8 o'clock sharp. All businessmen are urged to attend. Mr. Lidstrom, of Albany, will be present to speak briefly on petitions relative to the traveling library for Linn county. An attempt is being made to have a measure to this effect placed on the ballot this fall.

Other business relative to the bond issue will be taken up.

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Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Sheets of Salem were guests Sunday at the Paul Higley home.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Scott were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin LaVine et Toledo.

Mrs. Ann Orlando, who has been visiting at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Charley Stewart, returned to San Jose, California, after visiting in Mill City for a month. Also returning with Mrs. Orlando were her grandchildren, Suzette and Robert Gary Saltamachia.

Word was received here early Sunday of the death of John Needham, of Albany, an uncle of Mrs. Ernest Graham and Mrs. Bessie Vandermeer. He was the brother of their mother, Mrs. Stone Wells, who has been confined to a convalescent home in Salem for some time.

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