

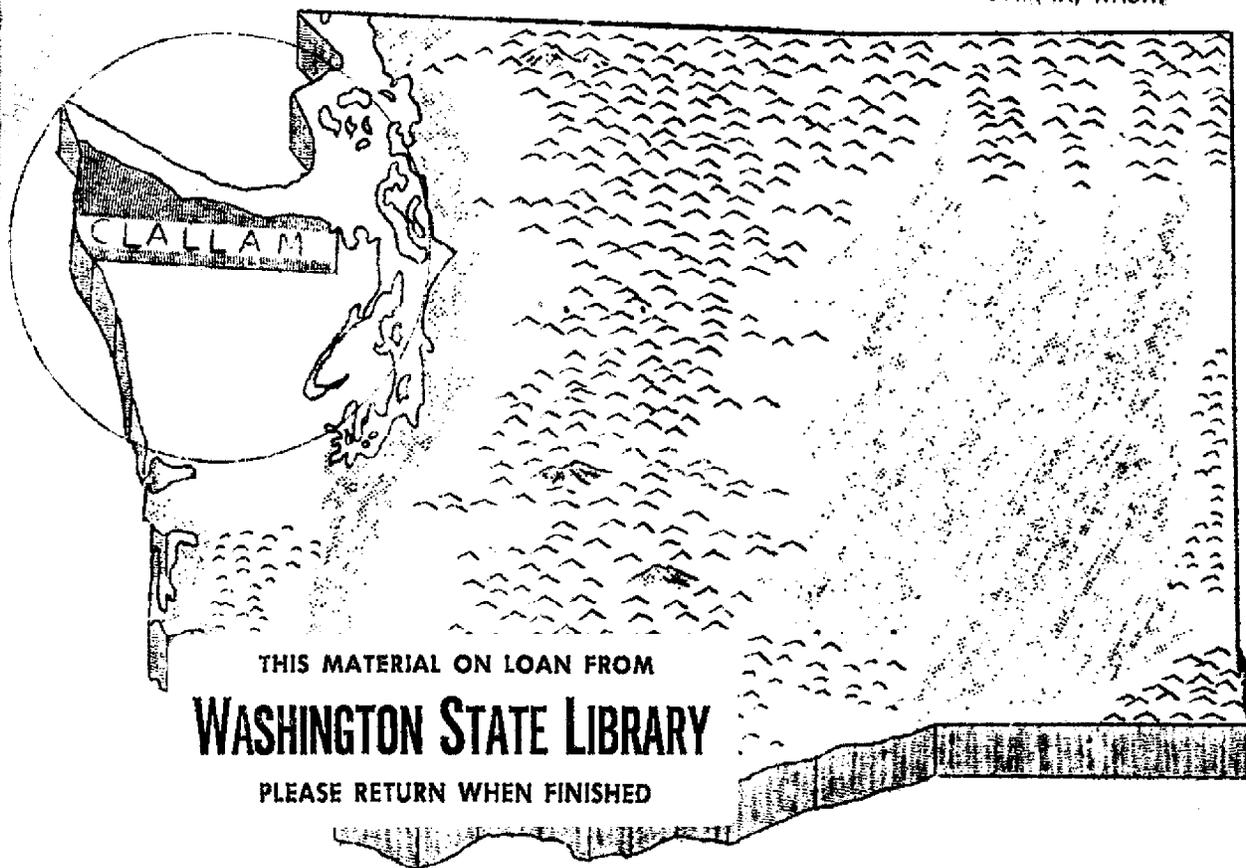
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CLALLAM COUNTY AGRICULTURE WASHINGTON

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL DATA SERIES
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Agricultural Marketing Service
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WASHINGTON CROP AND LIVESTOCK REPORTING SERVICE
348 Federal Office Building
Seattle 4, Washington

FOREWORD

This book on Clallam County is one of an original series being devoted to the history and present nature of agriculture in each of the thirty-nine counties of the State of Washington. This project was initiated in 1956 through funds made available by Sverre N. Omdahl, Director, Washington State Department of Agriculture, 1948-56. State funds were matched by moneys from the United States Department of Agriculture under the Research and Marketing Act of 1946.

County agricultural data books are intended to serve a variety of needs. Continually changing conditions in a dynamic state such as Washington require constant planning by groups and individuals both in private enterprise and public service. Comprehensive knowledge of land resources, population and agricultural-economic trends in a local area such as Clallam County is of great value. This book will be useful for reference in public and private instruction by vocational agriculture and social studies teachers in Clallam County schools. It has been devised also to inform adults interested in knowing more about their immediate area, as well as persons and enterprises concerned with agricultural production and marketing or prospective settlement and investment in the county.

Carefully selected geographic facts, agricultural history, population trends and statistical data are included to give an over all appreciation of Clallam County. The enumerations of the United States Censuses of Population and Agriculture since 1860 and recent estimates of the Washington State Census Board are summarized to give a perspective of development since the establishment of Clallam County in 1854. Facts on topography, soil, climate and forests which influence farming are integrated from surveys and reports of government agencies. Estimates of leading crops by years since 1939 by the Washington Crop and Livestock Reporting Service provide a measure of the trend in the agriculture of the county farm industry.

Acknowledgment is accorded the professional work of several persons. Immediate direction was under Emery C. Wilcox, Agricultural Statistician in Charge, Estimates Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture. Supervision, research and cartographic illustration was performed by Dr. Woodrow R. Clevinger, Market Analyst, Washington State Department of Agriculture. Mr. Richard Perry, of the Washington State Department of Agriculture, and Leonard W. Orvold, D. W. Barrowman and Edward S. Lippert, Agricultural Statisticians, Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, gave valuable assistance. The clerical staff of the Washington Crop and Livestock Reporting Service prepared tabular material for the book.

J. D. Dwyer, Director
Washington State Department of Agriculture

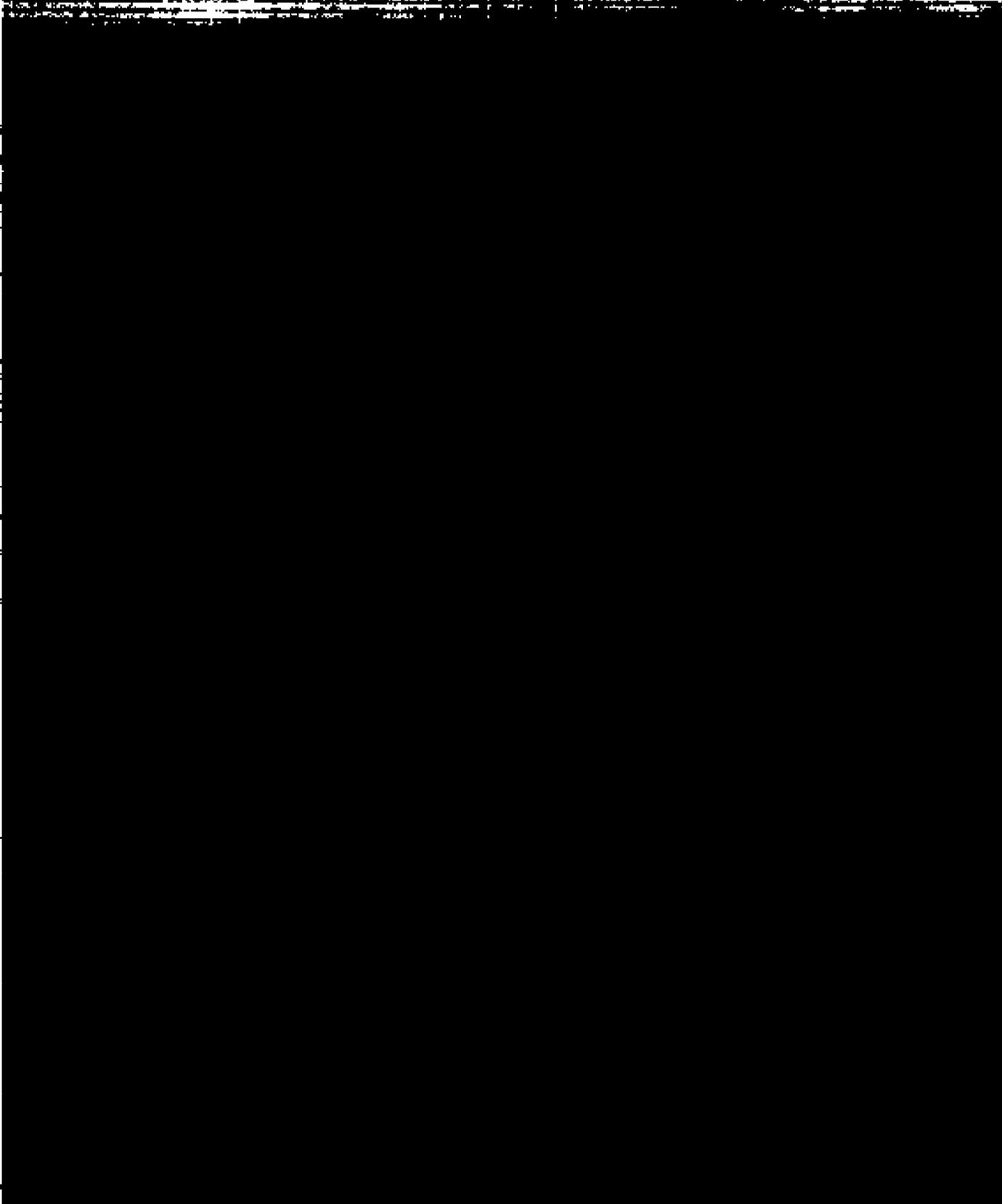
Olympia, Washington
January 15, 1959

Funds for this bulletin provided by the Washington State Department of Agriculture were matched by the United States Department of Agriculture under the Research and Marketing Act of 1946.

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PART I

History of Clallam County Agriculture

Introduction

Clallam County, a land of forested Olympic Mountains, Pacific Ocean shores and river valleys, is located on the northern end of the Olympia Peninsula in northwestern Washington. One of the earliest Washington areas to be discovered and explored, its agriculture developed relatively late. Primarily a forest county noted for logs, pulpwood and lumber, its farm population has developed an important livestock, dairying and general farming industry which supplements the forest economy.

The county is large in area and is varied in topography, climate and soil. With a total of 1,787 square miles or about 1,143,680 acres it ranks twentieth in size among the 39 Washington counties, and is larger than the State of Rhode Island. Clallam has the distinction of being the westernmost county of continental United States. Climatically, it also has the greatest range of rainfall of any American county--from 115 inches in the Olympic Mountains to about 16 inches in the Dungeness Lowland.

A large part of the area is within the mountainous terrain of Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest and the population density is relatively small--about 16 persons per square mile. In 1955 the population was estimated at 27,500, ranking nineteenth among Washington counties. Population has increased steadily to nearly five times the 1900 figure. Port Angeles, the county seat, is the largest city with 11,800 inhabitants.

Clallam's economic history is characterized by an early period of isolated homesteading and farming succeeded by lumbering and tourist trade and specialization in dairying. In 1950 total farm income was far exceeded by income derived from logging, lumbering and pulp and paper manufacturing. The sale value of all Clallam County farm products amounted to \$2,854,390 for the year 1954, according to the Census of Agriculture. Clallam ranked only 28th in its contribution to the total value of all Washington farm products in 1954.

Agriculture in Clallam County has changed, progressed and expanded. In little over a hundred years settlers of varied origins and nationalities

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developed 1,068 farms. A vast forest wilderness was civilized and wealth was created by their farming enterprise. In 1954 the farmland and farm buildings within Clallam County were estimated to average \$13,788 per farm, a total value of \$14,725,584.

History 1/

Before settlement by white men, the present Clallam County area was occupied by four Indian groups: Klallam, Makah, Quileute and Ozette, all having a similar economic culture of whaling, fishing and hunting. They traveled in large cedar canoes and were called canoe Indians. Klallam, from which the county name is derived, means "strong people". The Klallam spoke the Coast Salish language used by Puget Sound area tribes, while the Makah and Quileute belonged to an Indian stock living on Vancouver Island. The Pysht, Elwah and Dungeness Rivers and the beaches of Juan de Fuca Strait were inhabited by the Klallam. Cape Flattery and Neah Bay were the homes of the seafaring Makah. Lake Ozette and the Cape Alava district were occupied by the small Ozette group. The Quileute lived at the mouth of the present Quillayute River.

In accordance with the Makah Treaty and the Olympia Treaty made with the United States in 1855, the Makah, Ozette and Quillayute Reservations were established about the time white settlers began moving into the area. The Klallam Indians were allotted individual farm lands and have no reservation. LaPush and Neah Bay are distinctive Indian villages today.

The Clallam County area at Cape Flattery, Neah Bay and the shores of Juan de Fuca Strait were among the earliest points visited by white men on the northwest coast. Spanish and English navigators came to explore for a Northwest passage and to trade for sea otter furs. The legendary Juan de Fuca, or Apostolos Valerianos, a Greek navigator in the service of Spain, is believed to have discovered the Strait of Juan de Fuca as early as 1592. A Spanish expedition, led by Bruno Hecata and Bodega Quadra, explored the Olympic Peninsula coast in 1775. In 1778, the English explorer, Captain James Cook, discovered and named Cape Flattery, and in 1787 another English force under Captain Charles Barkley, a fur trader, discovered and named Juan de Fuca Strait after its supposed discoverer. John Meares, another fur trader, entered the Straits in 1788. He named Mount Olympus, the highest peak in the Olympics. In 1791 a Spanish expedition under Francisco Eliza sent Alferes Quimper to explore from the base at Nootka. He landed at Neah Bay and established a temporary, but the first white settlement in the State of Washington. Eliza named a bay and port, Angeles, now Port Angeles. Quimper explored the Strait, naming many topographic features. Port Angeles is one of the few Spanish names retained today.

1/ This historical summary has been derived from three sources:

- (1) Mrs. George Lotzgesell, "Pioneer Days at Old Dungeness", Washington Historical Quarterly, Volume XXIV, Oct. 1933, pp. 264-270.
- (2) Douglas B. Carter, "The Sequim-Dungeness Lowland; A Natural Dairy Community". Master of Arts Thesis Geography, University of Washington, 1948.
- (3) Ruby El Hult. Untamed Olympics, The Story of a Peninsula, Portland, Oregon: Binfords and Mort, 1954.

British expeditions were numerous after the Spanish gave up their territorial claims in the Treaty of Nootka, 1790. Captain George Vancouver explored the Straits and Puget Sound in 1792, charting and naming many features. New Dungeness was named after a point in England. The sea otter fur trade brought numerous English and American vessels to the present Clallam County area.

The Hudson Bay Fur Company traded with the Clallams both before and during joint occupancy and British territorial claims were strong until the Treaty of 1846, which established the present Canadian boundary. After this treaty, American settlers could move into the northern Olympic Peninsula without dispute as to land title or legal jurisdiction. Agricultural settlement by Americans, however, was delayed until about 1860 by the isolation of the peninsula and a fear of the Clallam, Makah and other war-like northern canoe Indians such as the Haidah in Canada. U. S. Naval forces patrolled the Straits and Puget Sound waters from 1856 to 1858 in a campaign to pacify the northwest coast tribes. Minor incidents between Indians and whites were numerous.

The earliest settlers were encouraged by the Donation Land Act of 1850, which granted 320 acres to a single settler or 640 acres to a man and wife settling in Washington Territory. The first permanent settlement was at Port Angeles and in the Dungeness Valley prairie. Port Angeles was a good anchorage at which numerous vessels stopped upon entering or leaving Puget Sound waters. First settled in 1857 by Rufus Holmes, it was founded as a national city in 1867 as a military and naval reserve. Port Angeles had an early importance as a customs inspection station and as a port of entry to Puget Sound.

The Dungeness lowland area attracted the first farm settlers and developed into the county's major agricultural district. In 1853, Elijah McAlmond, a Boston sea captain, filed one of the first land claims in the Dungeness area. One of the first farm families to settle was that of the German immigrant, George H. Lotzgesell, who took up a Donation land claim in 1859. Another influential homesteader in Dungeness Valley was Alonzo Davis. In the 1860's Davis brought in Jersey cattle, developed the first commercial dairy herd in the county and sold butter to the lumber and shipping populations. He is generally acknowledged as the first commercial butter producer in western Washington. Captain Thomas Abernathy, another early settler, grew potatoes and with a sloop traded them across the Strait in Victoria on Vancouver Island.

By 1854 there were about a hundred persons living at Port Angeles and along the shores of Juan de Fuca Strait. Because of their isolation from Jefferson County and Port Townsend, they petitioned for a separate county. Clallam was created by the Territorial Legislature April 26, 1854, with the county seat at Port Angeles. The first Census in 1860 showed a population of 149. Handicapped by isolation, forest clearing and lack of industry, population grew slowly, reaching only 638 by 1880 when farm settlement was just beginning in the remote Forks Prairie district. Luther M. Ford, O. P. Nelson and Eli Peterson homesteaded at Forks in 1876-1880.

From 1860 to 1890 agriculture was mainly for home and local use, with some export of products which could be profitably boated to market. Butter and hops were exported to Port Ludlow and Port Townsend. In the 1890's lumbering in the whole Puget Sound area and the Alaska gold rush created a good market for potatoes. Some Chinese tenant farmers developed a considerable, but temporary, potato industry before anti-Chinese labor sentiment forced their expulsion.

Development and population growth became more rapid after 1890 when logging and lumbering became an increasingly larger field of employment. The county's great forest resources attracted lumber, plywood and, later, pulp and paper manufacturing to Port Angeles, Carlsborg, Dungeness and Clallam Bay. Major payrolls were created by the Bloedel and Donovan Logging Company and Crescent Logging Company operations during the 1920's in western Clallam County. Later, in the 1930's, the Crown-Zellerbach Corporation paper plant at Port Angeles provided a new and stable basis of employment. Also, during the development of the wood products industry, the isolated peninsular area was made accessible by the completion of the Loop Highway (U.S. 101), connecting with Grays Harbor and southern Puget Sound cities. The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway also provided Port Angeles a rail connection with Seattle and Tacoma by means of railroad barges. Regular ferry service across Puget Sound and to Canada became established after 1920. The new road and the improved ferry service not only stimulated manufacturing and commercial agriculture, but also resulted in a tourist trade attracted by the Olympic National Park, an area noted for vast wilderness expanses. The county's greatest growth came during the 1920-1930 period when, with the expansion in logging and lumbering, the population increased from 11,368 to 20,449.

The relatively recent development of the peninsula attracted large numbers of settlers interested in part-time farming. Homesteaders of 1890-1920 were followed by loggers and sawmill workers. During the land settlement period, farming colonies of Americans entered the area. One colony of Methodists from Kansas, forced westward by drought, settled in the Dungeness area in 1895. Another group, the Puget Sound Cooperative Colony, settled at Port Angeles in 1883-1888. As in other western Washington counties, immigrants from north-western Europe were prominent as timber workers and land settlers. Canadians were the largest immigrant group in 1920, followed by Swedes, Norwegians and Germans.

Several enterprises, associations and agencies have been of importance in promoting the progress of Clallam County agriculture. Most of this activity concentrated in the Dungeness Lowland centered at Sequim. Irrigation development of the Dungeness-Sequim district is shared by nine private irrigation districts and companies involving numerous farm shareholder and hydraulic engineers. The Sequim Prairie Ditch Company and Dureka Irrigation and Filling Company pioneered this important work in 1895 and 1897, respectively. Irrigation of pastures and hay crops, added to ideal climate, favored the development of an important milk-producing industry.

Dairying in the Sequim-Dungeness area, based upon excellent herds of Jersey and Guernsey cattle, was greatly stimulated by the farmers' cooperative, Sequim-Dungeness Creamery. A private concern, Kristofferson's Creamery, established in 1928, did much to expand the marketing of Dungeness Valley milk in the fluid milk market of Seattle by means of tanker trucks and cross-Sound ferries.

Public agencies have done much to improve farming practices and inform farmers about soils and conditions of farming. The number of persons recently starting in farming and the varied natural conditions have made resource survey and extension work vitally important. The U. S. Soil Conservation Service, the Washington Agricultural Experiment Stations at Mount Vernon and Puyallup, and County Agricultural Agents at Port Angeles have done much to advise farm settlers.