

## ECONOMY OF HOONAH

Before the introduction of money for trading purposes in 1893, the people of Hoonah took their trade items to the Northwest Trading Company logstore to get whatever they needed. The Northwest Trading Company was at that time located where the playground of the Presbyterian Church is presently situated. It was the first establishment of this sort in Hoonah.

In 1893, L. Kane bought out the Northwest Trading Company logstore, later in 1898 he rebuilt it. Also, at that time O. J. Hillman was operating a store across the street from what is presently Greenwald's store.

In 1916, there were quite a few small stores all over Hoonah. Joe Pratt ran the co-op store. Prices back then were about 1/5 what they are now as vividly shown by the following examples of prices in the co-op store: canned fruit-15¢, butter-25¢ a pound, coffee-45¢, can milk-3/25¢, yardage-10¢ a yard and flannel-25¢ a yard.

In 1920 Oliver Hawkins set up a store near the middle of town and across from the show hall, so with the establishment of Charles Bevens store in 1922, the town's needs were well met. There was one Silent Motion Picture House and it was run by the team of Shotter and Dodge. Years later the talking movies came and William Sheakley leased the hall from Oliver Hawkins and showed the new talking movies. Ross Sheakley also had a pool hall and recreation room next to the Hawkins building. In 1944, after the great fire, Greenwald's store was established and Mrs. Greenwald made clothing and sold general merchandise. Most of the general merchandise stores sold fresh fruit like apples and oranges but there was no fresh meat or fresh bread shipped into town. However, Henry Moy ran a bakery and restaurant and Mrs. Hawkins also sold baked goods.

Standard Oil delivered its oil in 50 gallon drums and was the only oil company until 1927 when Union Oil came into Hoonah.

In 1902 the boat "Georgia" made weekly excursions into Hoonah to bring the mail. In 1901 the Post Office was established and it was first run by a Presbyterian minister in the back of L. Kane's store. The boat "March Anita" and the boat "Estebeth" at different times have had the mail run but in 1949 the boat "Forester", skippered by Capt. Don Gallagher, took over the mail run and has been coming to Hoonah until recently, when the "Betty R" skippered by Dave Reischl, took over.

In 1906, the first dock was built and sailboats and schooners were the only vessels moored there for it was 23 years later before Hoonah was introduced to its first engine--an Evinrude. Hoonah was an important port at this time because weather was often bad for boats going to Sitka and they docked here waiting for the weather to clear.

Fishing methods have greatly changed and improved over the years. Because of this fishing remains the economic mainstay of the community. However, since fishing engages the men only during the summer months, the women have helped to stabilize their income by working at any one of the eight different canneries around the area. These canneries were located at Dundas Bay, Port Althrop, Hawk Inlet, Funter Bay and Excursion Inlet.