



Welcome to San Juan County Washington



Three Meadows

Three miles down Roche Harbor Road from Friday Harbor stood large wooden gateposts signaling the entrance to Three Meadows. Opposite were tilted mailboxes with wildflowers and weeds growing at their feet. The dirt road meandered past Bill and Jeanne Cox's bounteous garden and silvery pond on the left and a large grazing meadow with sheep, cows and a couple of lazy horses on the right. An enormous red barn sat beyond the meadow next to the marsh. Broken, rusty farm implements dotted the grassy barnyard. The tranquil marsh was home to bass, mallard ducks and trumpeter swans. Tall cattails and a myriad of water lilies abounded in the still waters hiding the occasional muskrat and making canoeing slow going. The road wound around the marsh and through the woods to another set of grass covered hills before it let out at the back to Egg Lake Road.

Three Meadows was originally three dairy farms that had been combined to make a community that had been sub-divided into 30 five-acre plots and 250 acres of common land. The five-acre plots were scattered throughout the property and all had use of the grazing land, the barn, the marsh and the woods. Their youngest son built a two-bedroom home for Bill and Jeanne with an attached shop and then he built a geodesic dome on his plot, which was located through the woods from each other.

Bill was a self-taught artist, who had been drawing and painting for 50 years. He was a mining geologist who specialized in gold and silver mines.

His work took him all over the world. He would investigate claims, usually for a government - in Mexico, where he was fluent in Spanish or Nigeria or Portugal or Alaska. Bill and Jeanne Cox had both been born in Seattle and had met attending geology classes at the University of Washington – where they both graduated in 1940, marrying that September. After moving around the country with Bill's work, they eventually retired on San Juan Island and formed Three Meadows.

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