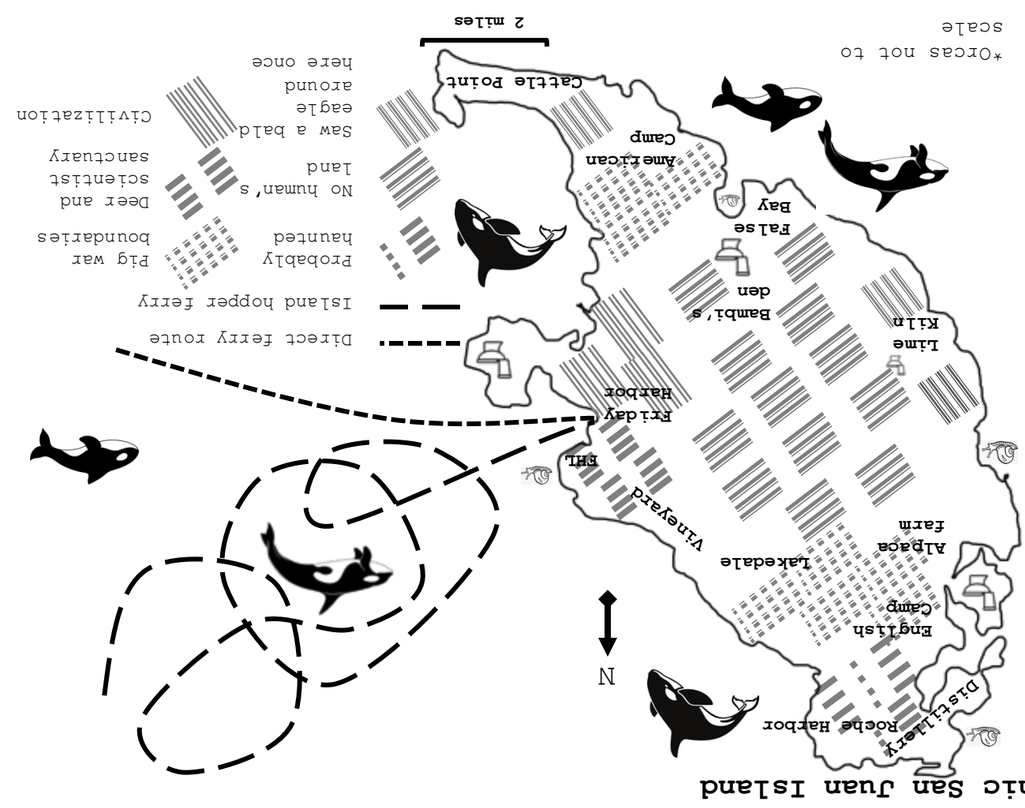
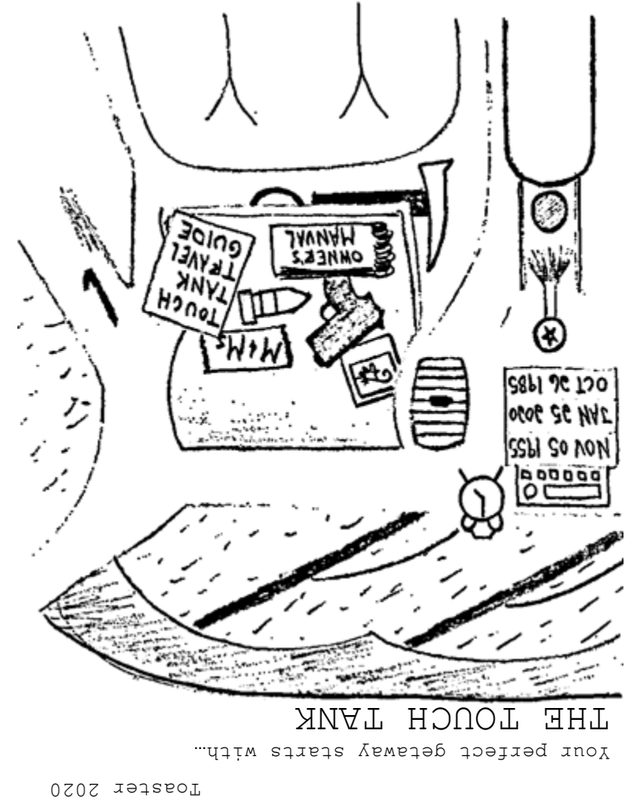
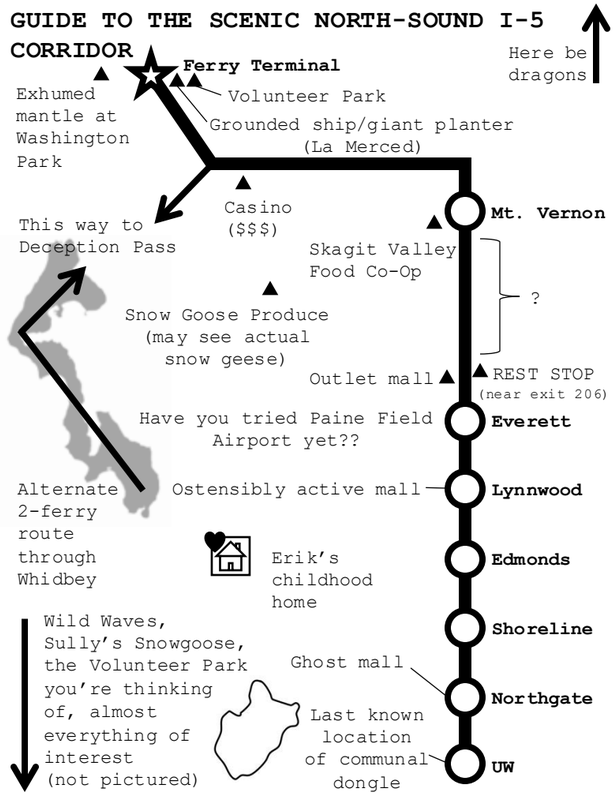


- You might see orcas! But you'll probably just see a seal.
- Danger: Barred owls attack blonde ponytails on the trails around FHL.
- You can walk to town from FHL, but wouldn't it be nice to take a boat?
- Biking around the island is great!
- Watch for wildlife including foxes, rabbits, bald eagles, seals, and tourists.
- Kung Fu Pizza: not as cool as it sounds.



Toaster 2020



Where to Poop this Toaster

Sure, you could try holding it all weekend until you get back to Seattle (good luck), but more likely than not, the DADS will have you up and at 'em on Sunday looking for a place to go. Use this list to find your excrementory bliss:

The MV Yakima - Take a chance on the Ferry and learn why "island hopper" was a euphemism all along. ★★★☆

The Gin Distillery - there's technically "no toilet" here, but anything can be a BOTW if you only use it once and never look back. ★★★★

FHL Main Office - this private privy will wrap you in a blanket of luxury: you can be as loud as you need with no worry of being caught. ★★★★★

Check out other Three Star and Up stops on the SJI map.

Puzzle Watch 2020:

Click Here to Follow Our Live Coverage

"Hold on, (touches hand to ear)...I'm just receiving word that a corner piece has been found! I'm starting to think these Birds of Paradise might be pieced together in the Nick of time. Over to you Jo."

"Thanks Norm. And I'm watching a tense moment here! Sheryl has been looking for a specific shade of turquoise for the last 12 minutes and it looks like… oh yes! Bravo Sheryl! As you know, we're having a banner year for ferry puzzling. It's hard fought, but we've ALMOST seen some puzzles completed during The Crossing. We've got a Riviera scene lacking a Riviera, but those beach umbrellas sure look recognizable. Let's look at who's on the car deck, Norm."

"Holy Smokes! Mustang 'The Jiggler' Sally seems to have come into retirement! Looks like she's been working out in the off season. She's in ship shape. They need her over there. I'm seeing a lot of ferry puzzled looks."

"Such perfect form! They've really put the pieces together for this event."

"It really makes me sit back and consider the bigger picture."

Afterglow Vista

In Roche Harbor, flowers line cobbled walkways that lead past cropped fescue down to the yachts cleated on wooden docks. Something about this place whispers of old secrets seething beneath the surface. In a nearby clearing, thick pillars, one broken, encircle a platform. On the platform rests a limestone table surrounded by chairs. Look closer to notice that one chair seems to be missing.

John S. McMillan founded the Roche Harbor Lime and Cement Company and helped found the Roche Harbor Resort. He designed the mausoleum. Each chair base houses the ashes of a family member. The broken pillar is intentional, signifying that death forces us to leave our work unfinished. The missing chair is a source of controversy. Some believe that McMillan's son who renounced the Methodist faith was denied a final resting place among family.

The mausoleum is worth seeing, but step carefully. Visitors have reported feeling cold air, hearing voices, and seeing blue lights that hover above the chairs. It's not all tomb and doom, though, since it's a beautiful walk to get there. It's a tomb with a view but you'll have to urn it. (Actually, the walk's not very long.)

History Lesson: The Pig War

Ambiguity in the Treaty of Oregon in 1846 gave both America and Canada legal claim to San Juan Islands. This became a problem when twenty American settlers arrived on the British-occupied SJI to start new lives as grumpy farmers after failing to rush gold in the Fraser River Gold Rush. One set up a potato patch next to a British pig farm. In 1859, a damn fool pig got into the potatoes, and that pig got hisself shot. The Brits tried to take the American pig-shooter to British court, leading the Americans to get drunk on the 4th of July, erect a US flag, and send a petition to the General of the Oregon Territory for military protection against litigious pig farmers. US infantry were sent to the island, and the British residents responded with warships, which the Americans responded to by sending in more troops. English and American war camps were built (see map). By two months after the pig shooting, the US military presence included 424 men and 15 officers. This was the 19th century, so it was another month before Washington D.C. first heard about the war. Orders were sent out to *stop everything until the grown-ups decide where the border is*. Unfortunately, the US Civil War broke out and the SJI question was shelved. Even after the Civil War ended, it took 3 years and 4 Germans arbitrators to settle the issue. By then, SJI had been under joint military occupation for 13 years. The border was set in Haro Strait, English camp was abandoned in 1872, and the war was ended with just one casualty: the pig.

Do all Ships go to Heaven?

Research says: No.

In our most recent issue of "Ask TouchTank," we had an overwhelming number of requests to address a particular question: what happens to ships after they die?

The sinking of the Centennial in 2019 jolted our community. To paraphrase Cheryl Strayed, whereas landlubbers and physical oceanographers live on planet Earth/in the Matrix, the rest of us now live on planet "our research vessel flooded and became inoperable."

What happened to our beloved ship? Is she at the bottom of Friday Harbor, making calls from Justin's phone? Did she go straight to Davy Jones' locker, which I'm told is not a good thing, even for boats? Or is she in a paradise of endless trawls/CTDs, with a septic system that can flush anything?

Dear reader, I have sad news. After Centennial died, she did not go to heaven. No ships do. There's no clear after life, it's a Jewish thing.