

HERRON ISLAND SHORT STORIES

By George Newcomb

A Community Building "Almost"!!

Hofbrau Haus, German beer garden, Century 21 Exhibition, 1962



At the worlds fair in Seattle in 1962 there was a well known restaurant known as the Hofbrau Haus. It was a unique style of building, made of precast, molded plywood, two inches thick in sections about twenty feet across with a large window in each section. These sections were bolted together on site to form a building about eighty feet long, and forty feet wide, complete with plumbing, lighting, heating and rest rooms.

After the fair, the building was sold, and moved to the dock at Shilshole Bay and used for storage for many years.

In the early seventies, the management at Shilshole ordered the owner to get rid of it, as it took up too much space on the dock. This word got to us somehow, and we got in contact with the owner because we thought it would make a good clubhouse. The owner said he would sell it to us for two thousand

dollars. This sounded too good to be true, but if you want something bad enough, and get organized, you can make it happen. So!

One of our board members was an executive of Glacier Sand & Gravel, who got permission from the company to provide, at no cost, a barge and tug. They would move the barge in next to the dock at Shilshole, we would take the building apart, and load it onto the barge. They would put the barge on the beach at Herron Island while we offloaded the pieces.

We had a friend who was part owner of B&B Glass in Tacoma, who agreed to remove the glass windows, store them until we erected the building, and then replace them for us at just their cost. "A Bargain."

I had a crane operators license, and arranged to rent a crane, go to Shilshole, load the sections onto the barge, then come to Herron Island and offload the barge.

I rounded up a crew of volunteers from the island to go and take the building apart.
"Too good to be true."

To finance this project, the island had sold one of the two original houses that were given to us by the developers for \$4000.00. We penciled it our and the total cost, including the concrete foundation would be very close to our \$4000.00.

We planned to set this building just above and to the left of our present shelter at the community beach, where we already had a septic tank.

The only thing left was to take a vote of the members, to make this happen.

But – there were those who did not want a community building at the North Beach!
So it was voted down!!