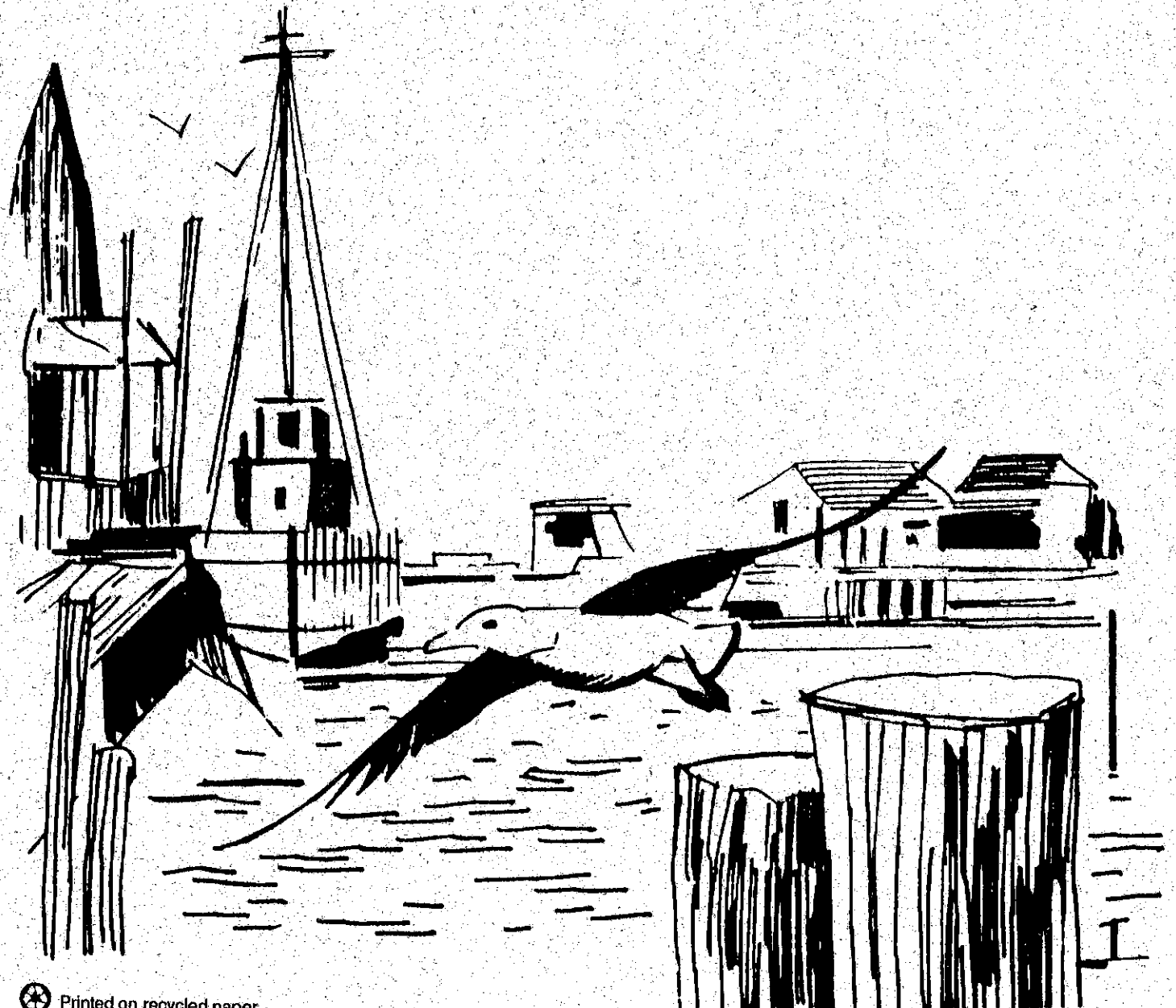


B48F2

Community Assessment Washington Island, Wisconsin 1993



FROM

SHELLY CORUESSEN
1631 LOST DAUPHINI RD.
DE PERE, WI 54115

U.W.G.B. MURPHY Student

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

of

**WASHINGTON ISLAND
WISCONSIN**

compiled by

Registered Nurses

in the

Baccalaureate Nursing Program

at the

University of Wisconsin-Green Bay

Fall Semester 1993

INTRODUCTION

The assessment of the community of Washington Island was completed as a course requirement for the six-credit course, Community Health Nursing 689-441.

In community health nursing practice, individuals, families, aggregates, and communities are all considered clients. The first step in either preventing, identifying, or resolving health problems is to assess the client. In this assessment, the Community of Washington Island is the client.

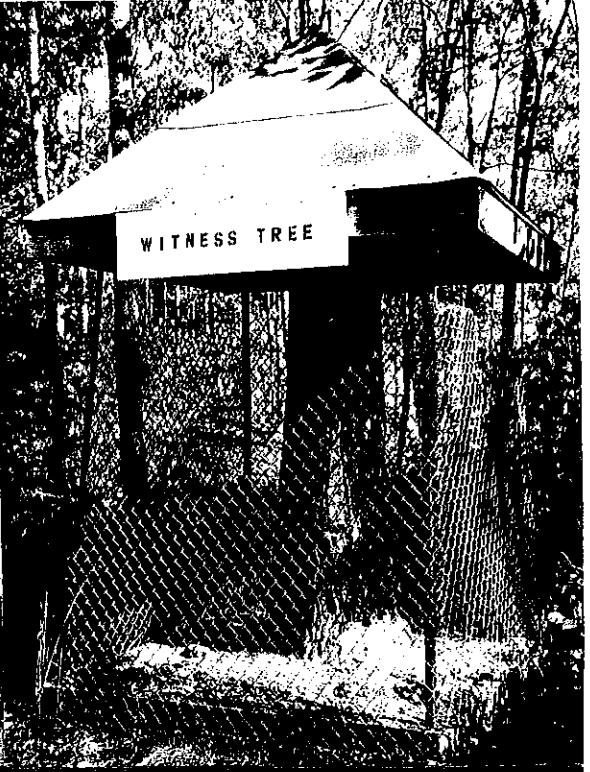
As a group project, ten assessment categories were selected and shared by eight students. The assessment data was gathered and analyzed. Nursing diagnoses were formulated to reflect the community's health-related attributes, problems, and potential changes with their probable etiologies. Community assessment data and corresponding nursing diagnoses provide direction for future health care planning that can enhance the community's level of wellness.

Each student completed one windshield survey. This is an assessment instrument that allows the observer to sense the life of the community and the environment through the windshield of a vehicle or at a demarcated area within the community. Common characteristics of the street people, the rhythm of the community, the quality of housing, and street maintenance are some of many dimensions that can be observed. The subjective data of a windshield survey, colorfully described by the writer, gives the interested reader a flavor of the community.

The Community Assessment of Washington Island is a student project. It is not definitive in nature and is not promoted as being completely accurate. The project represents the students' best analysis of their assessment data, and their personal reflections of Washington Island.

Lorraine Noll, MSN, RNC
Associate Professor
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
Instructor - Community Health Nursing 689-441

DOOR COUNTY
Car Ferry "EYRARBAKKI"



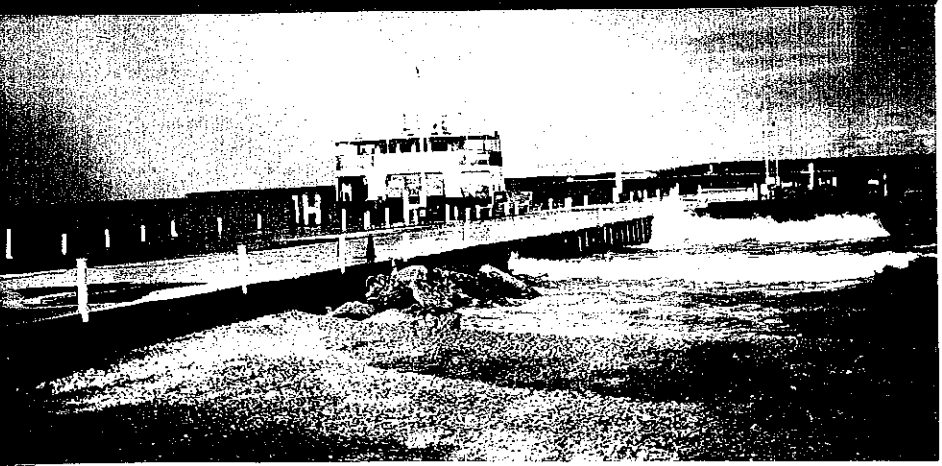
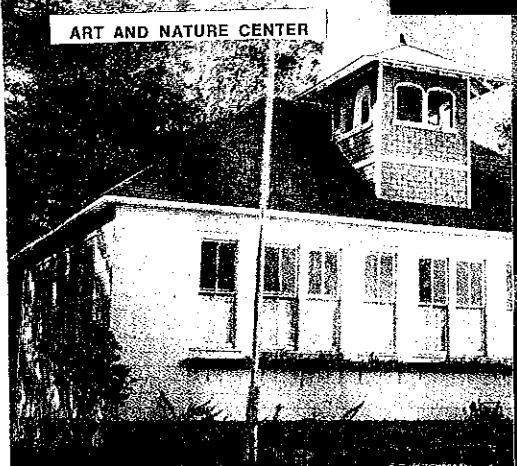
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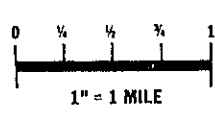
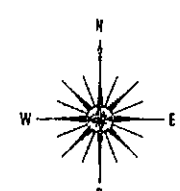
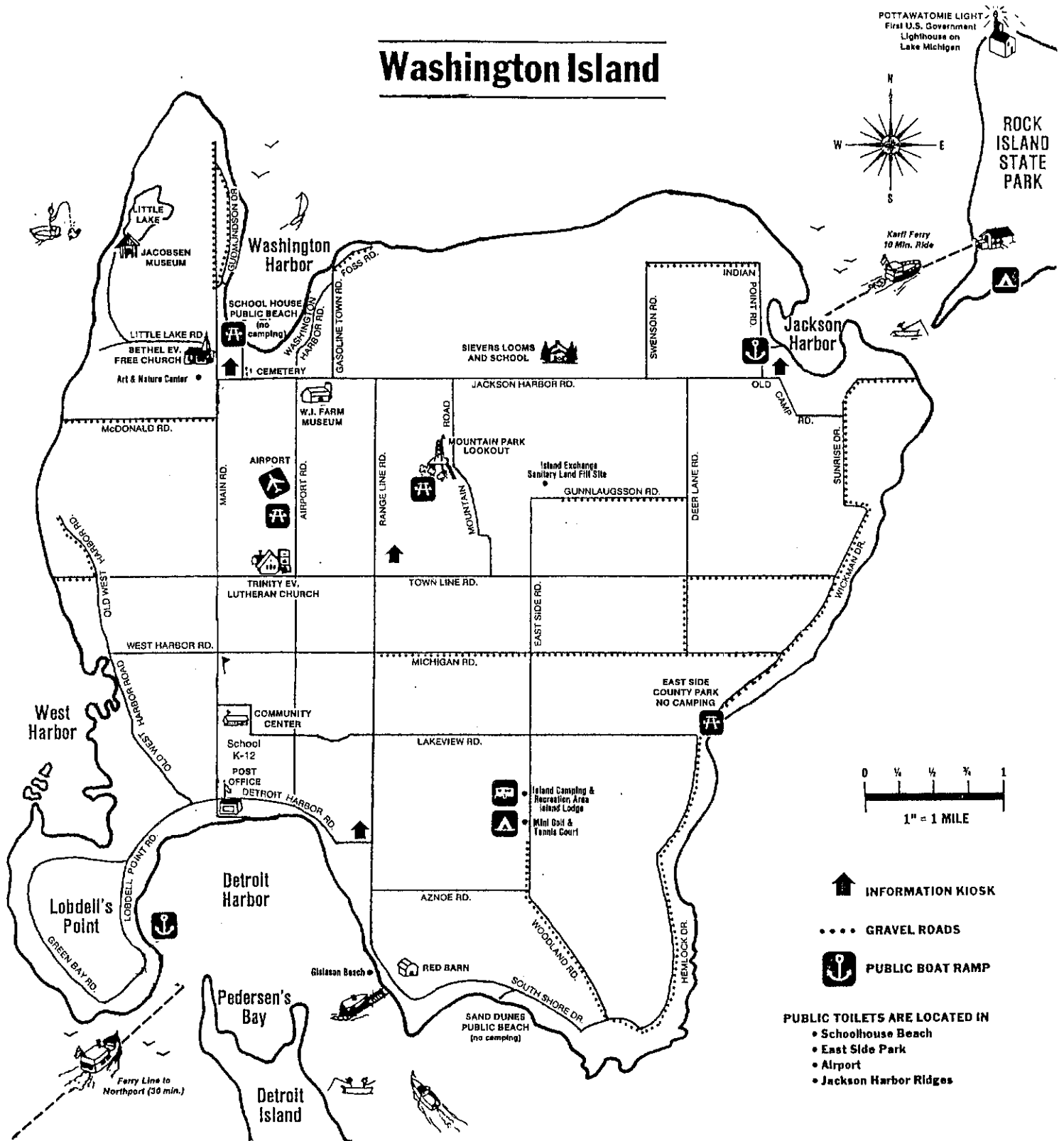





ART AND NATURE CENTER



Island

Washington Island



-  INFORMATION KIOSK
-  GRAVEL ROADS
-  PUBLIC BOAT RAMP

PUBLIC TOILETS ARE LOCATED IN

- Schoolhouse Beach
- East Side Park
- Airport
- Jackson Harbor Ridges

Assessment Categories

Student

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Community Core History Demographics Statistics Values and Beliefs | 1. Michelle Gruesen |
| 2. Government and Politics | 2. Lori Kulju |
| 3. Communication and Transportation | 3. Lori Kulju |
| 4. Physical Environment and Utilities | 4. Ann Hanchek |
| 5. Economics | 5. Diane Lohff |
| 6. Housing | 6. Jeanne Vogel |
| 7. Health and Social Services | 7. Laurie North |
| 8. Education | 8. Gail Larsen |
| 9. Cultural Facilities | 9. Paula Hobart |
| 10. Protective Services | 10. Paula Hobart |

COMMUNITY CORE

A brief description about Washington Islands location, history, demographics, values and beliefs, traditions, cultural diversity and religion will be the issues discussed in this community core assessment.

HISTORY - CULTURE

Washington Island is a small island off the tip of Door County, Wisconsin. It has a unique location, fascinating history, and a culturally diverse population. Washington Island, like many islands, has a mystique all its own. For centuries human beings have been drawn to islands searching for their treasures and Washington Island is no exception. The islands most sought after treasure is the environmental beauty it possess. This is most obvious in the summer months, evidenced by the dramatic rise of its population, which increases four to five times its permanent dwellership. Other island treasures that must not be forgotten are the peacefulness and tranquility of its atmosphere, as well as the island dwellers themselves, who demonstrate warmth and kindness. Their deep cultural traditions and values can be witnessed at public gatherings such as religious functions and native festivals. These are some of the treasures of Washington Island and they help make it a great place to

dream about, visit, or live.

To reach Washington Island drive north through scenic Door County on highway 42 or 57, continue north on highway 42 in Sister Bay to Gills Rock, travel 3 miles east to Northport, then proceed 7 miles across Lake Michigan on a ferry boat, to Washington Island. The island is located 270 miles north of Chicago, 180 miles north of Milwaukee, and 320 miles east of Minneapolis. If the modern technological route is preferred, a flight can be taken from any Wisconsin airport to the Washington Island airport. No matter which route is taken to the island, pleasant discoveries will be made.

Once on the island its size can be discovered by walking, biking, or driving around its 35 square miles. The island is approximately 5 miles wide and 7 miles long and has 26 miles of coastline. The waters of Lake Michigan that surround this small piece of land have secured a legend and a history all their own.

"Door to Death" was the name that was given to the treacherous 7 miles of water between Washington Island and the mainland by the Indians who initially dwelled there and in its surrounding territory. Historical literature has documentation of an Indian legend where 500 or more Potawatomee and Winnebago Indian warriors were drowned in a battle

over land possession on Washington Island. This legend was passed on to the French explorers by the Indians and the French translated it into "Porte des Morts." The modern English translation is "Deaths Door."

Another legend belonging to "Deaths Door" was the disappearance of the *Griffin* on September 18, 1679. Robert LaSalle, the famous French explorer and fur trader, instructed his crew, who was stationed on Washington Island, to load the vessel with the fur pelts and set sail for Canada. After the ship left the harbor it was never seen or heard from again. It was presumed that the ship capsized in the waters of "Deaths Door." The location or recovery of the *Griffin* has not occurred, only adding to the mystique of "Deaths Door".

This area of Lake Michigan has been labeled as a dangerous water way because of its strong currents, unpredictable winds and storms, and rocky shores. In the fall of 1871 over 100 ships were reported lost in the waters of "Deaths Door", and in 1880 about 30 more ships sunk or were forced against the shores of Plum Island. Due to a documented history of destruction and life snatching the title "Deaths Door" continues today.

Even though the mysteries of "Deaths Door" center around the treacherous waters of the lake and its powerful ability to swallow up ships, cold weather and unpredictable ice formation have claimed many

lives along this same route. Today modern technology and the Coast Guard provide protection from these waters and its surrounding terrain, so, crossing "Deaths Door" today has become very safe and pleasant trip.

It has been said that life on Washington Island and the dependency on boats are inseparable. This is evident today in the local ferry service, since, it provides the artery between the island and the mainland just as it did one hundred years ago. Therefore, it is only natural that the island was named after a ship, the *George Washington* schooner. In the summer of 1816 three vessel named *Washington*, *Mink*, and *Wayne*, were traveling from Mackinaw to Green Bay with soldiers destine to establish a fort in Green Bay. While anchored in a Washington Island harbor, the soldiers aboard the vessels, named the island after the finest ship of its small fleet. They also named the harbor that it was anchored in, known today as Washington Harbor located on the northern side of the island.

Prior to its present name, it had been known by other names. Some of its previous names that have been documented on early historical maps and old letters written by explorers and settlers are as follows:

Wassekiganeso (Chippewa name), Pattowatomee Island (named after Pottowatomee Indians who dwelled there at one time), Isle de Poux, Louse Island, Isle de Petit Detroit, Island Pou (French names), and Kayshak. The

confusion and multiple names given to the island are a result of its transient population, its location, wars or battles, the multiple explorers and traders who made the early maps, and the lengthy time lapse for registration and documentation of this territory to government officials.

Today the island has several affectionate titles which have been given to it by people who have fallen in love with it. A few of these popular names are: The pearl of the Door, The crown of the Door, and North of the tension Line. After a visit to the island a better understanding of these titles can be appreciated.

The heritage and culture of Washington Island began with its first inhabitants, the Indians. Several historical books state that the island was inhabited by different tribes during different time periods. Some of the last tribes to live on the island were Potawatomee, Winnebago, Chippewa, and Menomonee Indians. They found Washington Island to be a perfect dwelling place. The water provided a protective barrier as well as a bountiful food source. The soil was rich for farming their crops. Artifacts and historical items about the Indians who lived on Washington Island can be found at Jacobsens Museum, it is located in the northeastern corner of the island.

In the middle 1600's the French explorers and fur traders came to

Washington Island and nearby Rock Island. By the late 1600's the islands were a vital part of a profitable fur trade and a harbor for many ships traveling on the Great Lakes. The German and Irish began to make their way to the island. They cleared the land and built small homes. Their livelihood was fishing and farming. In 1850 Washington Island had 169 settlers living on it. They belonged to the Irish, German, English, Canadian, Scottish, Dutch, Cuban, and Santa Dominican nationalities. Other early pioneers to Washington Island were the settlers of Rock Island, these settlers originally came from Eastern America (32 New York families, 13 New England families, and 8 Ohio families). The population increased as the settlers came and the community developed as a famous fishing and farming area with an excellent harbor on the Great Lakes.

In 1870 the famous Icelandic immigration began with 4 young single men. They traveled to Washington Island to catch record sized fish and become land owners like other settlers of their time. By the end of the twentieth century more than 20 Icelandic families were living on Washington Island. Today Washington Island boasts the oldest Icelandic community in the United States.

The rapid development of Washington Island was due to the abundant supply of natural resources and easy transportation of these

goods to cities along the Great Lakes. The earlier settlers depended on farming, fishing, and forestry for their existence. Within a short period of time the fish supply in the lake began to decrease. The market was flooded with them as well as lumber and the islanders began to feel a financial pinch. In the late 1800's the railroad advanced up into the peninsula. This provided a new transportation route for agricultural products and a new product to capitalize on -- tourist. Today tourism provides the main economic base for Washington Island.

The population of Washington Island has varied throughout history because of its dependency on natural resources. The population has three classifications: permanent, migratory, and transient. The permanent population is the group of people who live on the island all year long. The migratory population is the group of people who live on the island during the warm weather. They are sometimes referred to by a few of the locals as the "Snow Birds." They come to the island when the birds do in the spring and leave with the birds when the weather turns cold. The last part to the population groups is the transient people or the tourist. They stay on the island for short periods of time, from a couple hours to several weeks. Because the population has three parts, it is extremely fluctuant and variable. The present population ranges from 640 permanent residents

to almost 3000 people on a busy summer day. Therefore, the island and the dwellers must be able to adapt to population shifts regularly. This is not a new issue for the island or islanders. The population has always varied on the island dating back to the seasonal dwellership of the Indians. The population has also been diverse, again dating to the initial inhabitants the Indians, with the different tribes living on the island at separate times. The uniqueness of its population has provided variety, adding to Washington Islands character.

The population of 1850 was recorded to be 169 and the 1993 population is 640. The fluctuations of its population can be seen below:

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>1850</u> | <u>1860</u> | <u>1870</u> | <u>1880</u> | <u>1890</u> | <u>1900</u> | <u>1910</u> | <u>1920</u> | <u>1930</u> | <u>1940</u> | <u>1950</u> |
| 632 | 384 | 427 | 738 | 863 | 903 | na | na | na | 754 | 776 |
| <u>1960</u> | <u>1970</u> | <u>1980</u> | <u>1990</u> | <u>1993</u> | | | | | | |
| 610 | 446 | 558 | 632 | 640. | | | | | | |

Social characteristics of the 1990 population can be seen on Table 1. The general population characteristics for 1990 can be seen on Table 2. Some of the population data is unavailable which is obvious by the missing population totals but a general understanding can be obtained.

| County County Subdivision | All persons | | | | | | | | | | | Households | Families | |
|------------------------------|-------------|--------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|--------|-------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| | Total | Female | Age | | | In group quarters | Race | | | Hispanic origin (of any race) | White, not of Hispanic origin | | | |
| | | | Under 18 years | 65 years and over | Median age | | White | Black | American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut | | | | | Asian or Pacific Islander |
| Dane County—Con. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Matamoras town | 982 | 493 | 263 | 91 | 34.5 | — | 967 | — | 5 | 8 | 3 | 966 | 357 | 269 |
| Matamoras village | 1 377 | 674 | 405 | 148 | 31.7 | — | 1 365 | — | 2 | 4 | 11 | 1 360 | 508 | 380 |
| Medina town | 1 124 | 544 | 341 | 93 | 33.3 | — | 1 073 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 54 | 1 063 | 373 | 314 |
| Middleton city | 13 289 | 7 073 | 3 124 | 1 285 | 32.6 | 94 | 12 853 | 170 | 46 | 169 | 124 | 12 780 | 5 692 | 3 426 |
| Middleton town | 3 628 | 1 786 | 1 172 | 198 | 34.5 | 41 | 3 589 | 12 | 4 | 20 | 16 | 3 576 | 1 132 | 1 012 |
| Monona city | 8 562 | 4 562 | 1 705 | 1 460 | 38.5 | 36 | 8 411 | 111 | 22 | 60 | 95 | 8 348 | 3 743 | 2 290 |
| Montrosa town | 1 032 | 492 | 285 | 58 | 33.0 | — | 1 025 | 3 | — | 4 | 3 | 1 022 | 362 | 282 |
| Mount Horeb village | 4 182 | 2 223 | 1 113 | 720 | 33.6 | 139 | 4 172 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 22 | 4 152 | 1 599 | 1 118 |
| Oregon town | 2 428 | 1 203 | 778 | 100 | 33.1 | — | 2 417 | 1 | — | 7 | 7 | 2 413 | 782 | 705 |
| Oregon village | 4 319 | 2 315 | 1 329 | 441 | 31.8 | 48 | 4 282 | 5 | 5 | 16 | 39 | 4 254 | 1 651 | 1 249 |
| Perry town | 646 | 321 | 189 | 53 | 32.2 | — | 640 | — | 3 | 1 | 3 | 639 | 211 | 175 |
| Pleasant Springs town | 2 660 | 1 266 | 736 | 256 | 35.7 | — | 2 631 | 11 | 3 | 11 | 8 | 2 627 | 919 | 772 |
| Primrose town | 595 | 275 | 156 | 46 | 34.1 | — | 593 | — | — | 2 | — | 593 | 206 | 162 |
| Rockdale village | 235 | 116 | 68 | 27 | 33.3 | — | 235 | — | — | — | — | 235 | 90 | 70 |
| Roxbury town | 1 536 | 743 | 433 | 150 | 32.5 | — | 1 527 | — | 5 | 3 | 4 | 1 524 | 517 | 433 |
| Rutland town | 1 584 | 767 | 416 | 110 | 34.4 | — | 1 569 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 12 | 1 566 | 542 | 468 |
| Shawwood Hills village | 1 680 | 874 | 407 | 289 | 43.0 | 32 | 1 575 | 13 | 5 | 77 | 20 | 1 558 | 650 | 500 |
| Springdale town | 1 258 | 590 | 317 | 104 | 34.6 | — | 1 243 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 1 242 | 440 | 366 |
| Springfield town | 2 650 | 1 228 | 803 | 170 | 31.3 | — | 2 626 | 6 | 9 | 6 | 18 | 2 612 | 879 | 701 |
| Stoughton city | 8 786 | 4 615 | 2 388 | 1 533 | 33.6 | 390 | 8 674 | 10 | 12 | 38 | 88 | 8 629 | 3 294 | 2 296 |
| Sun Prairie city | 15 333 | 7 930 | 4 491 | 1 513 | 31.0 | 107 | 15 049 | 103 | 52 | 86 | 154 | 14 932 | 5 605 | 4 122 |
| Sun Prairie town | 1 839 | 901 | 491 | 139 | 34.5 | — | 1 824 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 23 | 1 805 | 627 | 524 |
| Vernon town | 678 | 314 | 187 | 55 | 34.9 | — | 672 | — | 2 | 4 | 1 | 671 | 240 | 198 |
| Verona city | 5 374 | 2 822 | 1 722 | 463 | 31.8 | 64 | 5 317 | 18 | 18 | 15 | 40 | 5 283 | 1 915 | 1 465 |
| Verona town | 2 137 | 1 048 | 510 | 303 | 37.9 | 267 | 2 105 | 7 | 6 | 15 | 16 | 2 092 | 654 | 532 |
| Vienna town | 1 351 | 657 | 427 | 86 | 30.7 | — | 1 341 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 1 340 | 422 | 366 |
| Waunakee village | 5 897 | 3 034 | 1 803 | 515 | 30.5 | 134 | 5 874 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 47 | 5 831 | 2 002 | 1 590 |
| Westport town | 2 732 | 1 339 | 685 | 214 | 36.4 | — | 2 691 | 15 | 6 | 9 | 18 | 2 685 | 995 | 801 |
| Windsor town | 4 620 | 2 265 | 1 370 | 241 | 31.8 | — | 4 555 | 21 | 14 | 10 | 36 | 4 538 | 1 556 | 1 298 |
| York town | 649 | 304 | 183 | 74 | 35.1 | — | 646 | 3 | — | — | 1 | 645 | 219 | 184 |
| Dodge County | 76 559 | 37 399 | 20 450 | 11 342 | 33.7 | 3 816 | 74 700 | 1 142 | 215 | 197 | 911 | 74 131 | 26 853 | 20 079 |
| Ashippun town | 1 783 | 868 | 479 | 215 | 33.0 | — | 1 770 | 4 | — | 3 | 10 | 1 766 | 601 | 504 |
| Beaver Dam city | 14 196 | 7 541 | 3 607 | 2 630 | 35.3 | 264 | 13 992 | 19 | 24 | 80 | 168 | 13 902 | 5 751 | 3 814 |
| Beaver Dam town | 3 097 | 1 540 | 829 | 334 | 35.3 | — | 3 061 | 4 | 13 | 15 | 27 | 3 040 | 1 144 | 881 |
| Brownsville village | 415 | 211 | 133 | 45 | 30.7 | — | 407 | — | — | — | 13 | 402 | 149 | 117 |
| Burnett town | 915 | 445 | 242 | 126 | 35.1 | — | 914 | — | 1 | — | 2 | 912 | 326 | 256 |
| Calamus town | 1 009 | 467 | 271 | 91 | 31.2 | — | 1 003 | — | 3 | — | 8 | 998 | 352 | 275 |
| Chester town | 1 393 | 422 | 243 | 90 | 29.9 | 550 | 1 163 | 208 | 16 | 1 | 43 | 1 129 | 294 | 243 |
| Clyman town | 742 | 366 | 249 | 66 | 31.8 | — | 735 | — | 2 | 5 | 6 | 730 | 226 | 196 |
| Clyman village | 370 | 181 | 102 | 47 | 32.0 | — | 359 | — | 3 | 1 | 22 | 345 | 139 | 106 |
| Columbus city | 10 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 28.0 | — | 10 | — | — | — | — | 10 | 4 | 3 |
| Elba town | 964 | 469 | 275 | 105 | 33.5 | — | 958 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 13 | 946 | 332 | 265 |
| Emmet town | 1 014 | 488 | 299 | 78 | 31.3 | — | 1 009 | — | — | 4 | 1 | 1 009 | 317 | 277 |
| Fox Lake city | 1 269 | 661 | 308 | 264 | 35.8 | — | 1 255 | — | 4 | 3 | 23 | 1 239 | 505 | 357 |
| Fox Lake town | 1 938 | 563 | 254 | 237 | 34.3 | 795 | 1 629 | 276 | 22 | 4 | 56 | 1 583 | 459 | 336 |
| Hartford city | 9 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 55.5 | — | 9 | — | — | — | — | 9 | 4 | 4 |
| Herman town | 1 127 | 532 | 367 | 133 | 31.3 | — | 1 125 | — | 2 | — | — | 1 125 | 347 | 291 |
| Horton city | 3 873 | 1 940 | 1 119 | 540 | 32.9 | — | 3 843 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 55 | 3 802 | 1 434 | 1 072 |
| Hubbard town | 1 390 | 671 | 347 | 180 | 36.5 | — | 1 380 | — | 7 | 1 | 5 | 1 377 | 503 | 415 |
| Hustisford town | 1 209 | 596 | 393 | 119 | 32.4 | — | 1 207 | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 206 | 384 | 328 |
| Hustisford village | 979 | 515 | 270 | 173 | 34.1 | 16 | 977 | — | 1 | — | 7 | 971 | 370 | 260 |
| Iron Ridge village | 887 | 438 | 295 | 91 | 29.1 | — | 883 | — | — | 3 | 11 | 876 | 307 | 240 |
| Juneau city | 2 157 | 1 147 | 441 | 623 | 42.5 | 468 | 2 152 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 2 147 | 683 | 464 |
| Kekoskee village | 188 | 88 | 47 | 34 | 36.6 | — | 188 | — | — | — | — | 188 | 67 | 52 |
| Lebanon town | 1 630 | 797 | 425 | 236 | 34.1 | — | 1 624 | — | 2 | 1 | 11 | 1 616 | 540 | 443 |
| Leroy town | 1 025 | 486 | 290 | 126 | 31.4 | — | 1 018 | — | 1 | 3 | 16 | 1 007 | 336 | 278 |
| Lomira town | 1 280 | 617 | 393 | 139 | 31.3 | — | 1 259 | — | 7 | 5 | 25 | 1 248 | 420 | 353 |
| Lomira village | 1 542 | 789 | 436 | 239 | 31.3 | 41 | 1 530 | 1 | 4 | — | 22 | 1 515 | 548 | 413 |
| Lowell town | 1 146 | 558 | 322 | 137 | 33.9 | — | 1 144 | — | 2 | — | 2 | 1 142 | 398 | 324 |
| Lowell village | 300 | 146 | 85 | 34 | 32.0 | — | 298 | — | — | — | 8 | 292 | 110 | 82 |
| Mayville city | 4 374 | 2 234 | 1 239 | 629 | 33.1 | 7 | 4 348 | — | 6 | 11 | 42 | 4 313 | 1 643 | 1 222 |
| Neosho village | 658 | 322 | 231 | 62 | 30.0 | — | 655 | — | 2 | — | 9 | 647 | 220 | 174 |
| Oak Grove town | 1 200 | 595 | 349 | 132 | 32.7 | — | 1 198 | — | — | 2 | 3 | 1 195 | 412 | 334 |
| Portland town | 994 | 468 | 323 | 99 | 31.9 | — | 974 | 11 | — | 2 | 7 | 974 | 325 | 263 |
| Randolph village | 1 227 | 627 | 314 | 294 | 36.1 | 82 | 1 205 | — | — | — | 35 | 1 192 | 460 | 309 |
| Reeseville village | 673 | 323 | 204 | 85 | 32.6 | — | 665 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 662 | 254 | 175 |
| Rubicon town | 1 709 | 810 | 566 | 120 | 30.3 | — | 1 696 | — | 1 | 2 | 14 | 1 692 | 518 | 437 |
| Shields town | 500 | 252 | 139 | 47 | 35.0 | — | 500 | — | — | — | 3 | 497 | 162 | 140 |
| Theresa town | 1 083 | 510 | 337 | 108 | 31.0 | — | 1 070 | — | — | 8 | 14 | 1 061 | 329 | 285 |
| Theresa village | 771 | 382 | 227 | 106 | 31.5 | — | 764 | — | 1 | 3 | 12 | 755 | 284 | 211 |
| Trenton town | 1 299 | 599 | 431 | 104 | 31.5 | — | 1 294 | — | — | 4 | 4 | 1 291 | 409 | 353 |
| Watertown city | 6 754 | 3 522 | 1 876 | 1 293 | 34.4 | 282 | 6 670 | 4 | 27 | 11 | 77 | 6 634 | 2 397 | 1 799 |
| Waupun city | 5 490 | 2 286 | 1 150 | 867 | 34.2 | 1 311 | 4 804 | 605 | 42 | 9 | 122 | 4 734 | 1 716 | 1 154 |
| Westford town | 1 248 | 585 | 328 | 180 | 37.3 | — | 1 234 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 1 231 | 441 | 368 |
| Williamstown town | 722 | 334 | 211 | 77 | 31.9 | — | 721 | — | — | — | — | 721 | 233 | 206 |
| Door County | 25 690 | 13 082 | 6 659 | 4 559 | 36.5 | 345 | 25 387 | 29 | 178 | 47 | 153 | 25 287 | 10 066 | 7 192 |
| Baileys Harbor town | 780 | 411 | 158 | 163 | 41.0 | — | 774 | — | — | — | 6 | 774 | 334 | 233 |
| Brussels town | 1 042 | 502 | 324 | 148 | 32.9 | — | 1 036 | 1 | 5 | — | 1 | 1 035 | 356 | 277 |
| Claybanks town | 379 | 185 | 96 | 70 | 38.6 | — | 377 | — | 1 | 1 | 3 | 374 | 143 | 115 |
| Egg Harbor town | 1 019 | 495 | 281 | 124 | 32.5 | — | 993 | — | 17 | 2 | 21 | 979 | 359 | 285 |
| Egg Harbor village | 183 | 94 | 33 | 53 | 45.3 | — | 179 | 4 | — | — | — | 178 | 88 | 51 |
| Ephraim village | 261 | 137 | 33 | 75 | 52.5 | — | 261 | — | — | — | — | 261 | 122 | 91 |
| Forestville town | 999 | 468 | 296 | 116 | 32.6 | — | 991 | 2 | 6 | — | 1 | 990 | 334 | 278 |
| Forestville village | 470 | 230 | 136 | 83 | 35.4 | — | 465 | 2 | 3 | — | 4 | 461 | 182 | 131 |
| Gardner town | 1 025 | 502 | 263 | 148 | 36.0 | — | 1 008 | — | 16 | — | 8 | 1 001 | 387 | 294 |
| Gibraltar town | 939 | 467 | 226 | 144 | 39.9 | 4 | 938 | — | — | 1 | — | 937 | 380 | 271 |
| Jacksonport town | 689 | 332 | 170 | 126 | 38.3 | — | 679 | — | 3 | 3 | 4 | 679 | 257 | 196 |
| Liberty Grove town | 1 506 | 769 | 332 | 334 | 42.0 | — | 1 493 | 1 | 4 | — | 11 | 1 490 | 625 | 470 |
| Nasewaupee town | 1 798 | 894 | 487 | 275 | 36.2 | — | 1 771 | — | 21 | 2 | 15 | 1 760 | 700 | 514 |
| Sevostopol town | 2 552 | 1 257 | 739 | 374 | 35.3 | — | 2 539 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 2 535 | 926 | 746 |
| Sister Bay village | 675 | 383 | 117 | 247 | 51.3 | 70 | 670 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 670 | 284 | 166 |
| Sturgeon Bay city | 9 176 | 4 854 | 2 375 | 1 697 | 35.0 | 268 | 9 037 | 13 | 81 | 32 | 61 | 8 992 | 3 740 | 2 456 |
| Sturgeon Bay town | 853 | 414 | 246 | 129 | 35.4 | 3 | 836 | 2 | 13 | — | 6 | 835 | 318 | 235 |
| Union town | 721 | 372 | 203 | 96 | 32.8 | — | 720 | — | 1 | — | 1 | 719 | 253 | 209 |
| Washington town | 623 | 316 | 144 | 157 | 42.8 | — | 620 | | | | | | | |

Table 2 Selected Social Characteristics: 1990—Con.

[Data based on sample and subject to sampling variability, see text. For definitions of terms and meanings of symbols, see text.]

| State County County Subdivision Place | All persons | | Persons 5 years and over | | Persons who speak a language other than English at home | | Family households | | Female householders, no hus- band present | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|---|---------------------------|---|--|---|-------|---|
| | Total | Percent foreign born | Native | Percent living in different house in 1985 | Persons 5 to 17 years | | Persons 18 years and over | | Total | Percent with own children under 18 years | Total | Percent with own children under 18 years |
| | | | | | Total | Percent who do not speak English "very well" | Total | Percent who do not speak English "very well" | | | | |
| Dodge County—Con. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Champion village | 372 | 5 | 370 | 40.8 | — | — | 18 | 11.1 | 106 | 38.9 | 84 | 35.7 |
| Columbus city (pt.) | 12 | 100.0 | 12 | 8 | — | — | 3 | — | 3 | 100.0 | 3 | — |
| Elba town | 964 | 5 | 959 | 34.9 | 3 | — | 15 | 24.7 | 274 | 52.2 | 251 | 51.4 |
| Ernest town | 1,012 | 1.3 | 999 | 33.1 | 3 | — | 29 | 31.0 | 269 | 55.4 | 242 | 58.3 |
| Fox Lake city | 2,689 | 1.1 | 2,653 | 36.7 | 5 | 100.0 | 116 | 56.1 | 3,460 | 47.5 | 3,066 | 45.4 |
| Fox Lake village | 938 | 1.3 | 915 | 51.0 | — | — | 11 | 51.7 | 360 | 37.6 | 313 | 37.4 |
| Horford city (pt.) | 13 | — | 13 | 13 | — | — | — | — | 6 | — | 6 | — |
| Horford village | 1,132 | — | 1,132 | 28.3 | 5 | — | 99 | 29.3 | 288 | 55.6 | 267 | 56.2 |
| Hudson city | 3,873 | 9 | 3,838 | 39.5 | 15 | 80.0 | 165 | 26.7 | 1,079 | 51.6 | 967 | 48.9 |
| Hudson village | 1,390 | 2.0 | 1,362 | 23.8 | 12 | 16.7 | 65 | 27.7 | 428 | 41.8 | 388 | 42.5 |
| Hubbard town | 1,209 | 3 | 1,205 | 22.8 | 5 | 40.0 | 39 | 33.3 | 318 | 55.3 | 280 | 55.0 |
| Hustford town | 887 | — | 887 | 34.3 | 9 | 22.2 | 37 | 29.8 | 275 | 48.0 | 237 | 48.5 |
| Iron Ridge village | 2,157 | 1.6 | 2,122 | 36.3 | 8 | 50.0 | 78 | 35.1 | 2,477 | 59.5 | 2,177 | 58.1 |
| Janesau city | 2,006 | — | 2,006 | 44.3 | — | — | 2 | 29.5 | 474 | 46.0 | 428 | 45.7 |
| Kelsoe village | 1,630 | — | 1,615 | 21.5 | — | — | 2 | — | 54 | 38.9 | 46 | — |
| Lebanon town | 1,007 | — | 1,007 | 29.1 | 18 | 11.1 | 142 | 29.6 | 437 | 42.3 | 391 | 45.0 |
| Leroy town | 1,280 | 1.9 | 1,256 | 19.4 | 5 | 100.0 | 31 | 35.5 | 279 | 44.8 | 262 | 45.0 |
| Loma village | 1,542 | 1.6 | 1,517 | 27.7 | 5 | — | 44 | 43.2 | 358 | 50.0 | 327 | 48.6 |
| Loma village | 1,146 | — | 1,146 | 39.4 | 5 | 60.0 | 104 | 20.2 | 414 | 50.7 | 356 | 49.2 |
| Lowell town | 301 | 1.3 | 297 | 44.6 | 14 | 35.7 | 15 | 13.3 | 332 | 46.1 | 290 | 49.3 |
| Lowell village | 4,374 | — | 4,339 | 36.7 | — | — | 10 | 70.0 | 91 | 41.8 | 74 | 36.5 |
| Marysville city | 663 | — | 663 | 36.7 | 14 | 85.7 | 193 | 44.6 | 1,866 | 50.3 | 1,613 | 50.0 |
| Neosho village | 1,200 | — | 1,197 | 39.1 | 4 | — | 18 | 44.4 | 1,777 | 72.9 | 1,599 | 76.1 |
| Oak Grove town | 994 | 3 | 991 | 35.1 | 15 | 60.0 | 27 | 25.9 | 338 | 52.1 | 310 | 50.0 |
| Panthers town | 1,227 | 2.4 | 1,197 | 35.9 | 6 | — | 5 | — | 269 | 53.5 | 245 | 52.2 |
| Randolph village (pt.) | 1,700 | — | 1,668 | 47.7 | 6 | — | 6 | 66.7 | 323 | 30.8 | 289 | 47.8 |
| Reeseville village | 1,000 | 2.1 | 972 | 29.2 | 13 | 15.4 | 73 | 21.4 | 169 | 32.7 | 137 | 51.8 |
| Rubicon town | 1,513 | — | 1,509 | 28.5 | 4 | — | 9 | 44.4 | 433 | 33.3 | 376 | 34.3 |
| Shields town | 1,083 | — | 1,079 | 24.1 | 4 | — | 7 | 43.8 | 276 | 45.1 | 222 | 51.6 |
| Theresa town | 766 | — | 760 | 34.6 | 8 | — | 63 | 38.1 | 205 | 53.2 | 185 | 53.0 |
| Theresa village | 1,299 | — | 1,291 | 30.2 | 10 | 20.0 | 25 | 24.0 | 360 | 55.4 | 322 | 56.3 |
| Trenton town | 6,754 | 1.0 | 6,686 | 42.5 | 30 | 36.7 | 291 | 12.0 | 1,839 | 51.0 | 1,887 | 49.8 |
| Watertown city (pt.) | 5,490 | 1.6 | 5,401 | 48.2 | 28 | — | 211 | 40.3 | 1,038 | 51.2 | 938 | 48.9 |
| Wagon city (pt.) | 1,248 | — | 1,239 | 38.4 | — | — | 30 | 20.0 | 366 | 43.4 | 335 | 41.5 |
| Westford town | 717 | — | 712 | 20.7 | 2 | 100.0 | 10 | 20.0 | 208 | 44.7 | 181 | 42.5 |
| Williamstown town | 25,690 | 1.1 | 25,403 | 33.2 | 165 | 33.3 | 967 | 27.2 | 7,203 | 46.1 | 6,326 | 45.0 |
| Boilers Harbor town | 1,042 | — | 1,042 | 30.1 | 6 | 50.0 | 101 | 32.7 | 243 | 38.3 | 224 | 37.9 |
| Boylers Harbor town | 367 | — | 367 | 23.6 | — | — | 3 | — | 272 | 53.7 | 250 | 54.0 |
| Clyde town | 1,033 | — | 1,027 | 26.5 | 3 | 100.0 | 35 | 34.3 | 111 | 37.8 | 107 | 37.4 |
| Egg Harbor town | 278 | — | 273 | 49.4 | 2 | — | 3 | — | 280 | 52.1 | 250 | 52.4 |
| Egg Harbor village | 969 | 1.9 | 965 | 27.3 | 8 | 62.5 | 31 | 58.1 | 49 | 18.4 | 46 | 19.6 |
| Estevan village | 1,700 | — | 1,688 | 22.6 | 5 | — | 13 | 30.8 | 96 | 29.2 | 90 | 27.8 |
| Forestville town | 500 | — | 491 | 31.2 | 5 | — | 15 | 13.3 | 273 | 45.8 | 236 | 47.9 |
| Forestville village | 1,033 | — | 1,031 | 87.4 | 5 | — | 29 | 6.9 | 133 | 50.4 | 115 | 52.2 |
| Gardner town | 923 | — | 915 | 27.6 | 4 | — | 39 | 30.8 | 299 | 44.8 | 258 | 43.4 |
| Gibraltar town | 689 | — | 683 | 41.4 | 4 | — | 23 | 13.0 | 254 | 44.9 | 212 | 40.6 |
| Liberty Grove town | 1,506 | 2.1 | 1,478 | 20.8 | 1 | — | 23 | 13.0 | 224 | 37.1 | 201 | 35.3 |
| Nisswa town | 1,798 | 1.3 | 1,775 | 35.8 | 12 | 33.3 | 55 | 47.3 | 473 | 36.8 | 442 | 35.3 |
| Swanton town | 2,552 | 3.7 | 2,529 | 30.6 | 15 | 46.7 | 73 | 23.7 | 515 | 48.9 | 451 | 47.7 |
| Sister Bay village | 665 | — | 661 | 47.2 | 3 | — | 45 | 15.6 | 745 | 48.7 | 661 | 46.4 |
| Sturgeon Bay city | 9,176 | 1.1 | 9,074 | 40.4 | 80 | 36.3 | 287 | 28.0 | 1,699 | 50.1 | 1,534 | 33.8 |
| Sturgeon Bay town | 865 | — | 858 | 27.8 | 8 | — | 31 | 19.4 | 435 | 35.7 | 394 | 48.7 |
| Union town | 713 | 1.3 | 704 | 16.3 | 6 | 50.0 | 119 | 17.6 | 241 | 43.7 | 184 | 44.0 |
| Washington town | 632 | 3.6 | 609 | 34.2 | 5 | — | 23 | 26.1 | 206 | 43.7 | 185 | 40.6 |
| Douglas County | 41,927 | 1.4 | 41,159 | 38.5 | 160 | 48.8 | 1,403 | 64.0 | 11,265 | 48.4 | 8,946 | 44.2 |
| Adrian town | 927 | — | 925 | 27.7 | — | — | 25 | — | 265 | 55.5 | 211 | 56.9 |
| Barab town | 512 | — | 510 | 28.7 | 3 | 100.0 | 90 | 4.4 | 141 | 47.5 | 130 | 46.9 |
| Beaumont town | 530 | — | 528 | 24.8 | — | — | 24 | 16.7 | 151 | 38.4 | 129 | 37.2 |
| Beaumont village | 245 | — | 236 | 32.7 | — | — | 2 | 100.0 | 70 | 62.5 | 64 | 50.0 |
| Chickland town | 202 | — | 202 | 60.4 | — | — | 2 | — | 56 | 45.2 | 49 | 65.3 |
| Dunbar town | 566 | — | 555 | 37.7 | 12 | — | 58 | 28.6 | 177 | 31.1 | 159 | 32.7 |
| Edgemoor town | 1,049 | 2.0 | 1,028 | 37.9 | 4 | 100.0 | 7 | 60.3 | 261 | 58.2 | 229 | 53.7 |
| Highland town | 249 | — | 248 | 29.6 | — | — | 9 | — | 67 | 34.3 | 62 | 32.3 |
| Highland village | 911 | 2.5 | 888 | 39.6 | 4 | 100.0 | 22 | 81.8 | 283 | 43.1 | 255 | 51.1 |
| Lake Nebigon village | 583 | — | 579 | 27.8 | — | — | 50 | 12.0 | 156 | 57.1 | 126 | 52.4 |

RELIGION - VALUES - BELIEFS - TRADITION

A. Whitney stated in her historic book, Lets Talk About "Washington Island", "It is interesting to realize that these hard working men and women, who traveled to meeting through most difficult trails and roads, were conscious that a community was not a real community without the dignity of a house of worship." She captures the feelings of many islanders with regard to the need and the importance of religion and its value to the community. This need for a place of spiritual worship is evidenced by the building of 5 churches between 1865-1930. They were Bethel Church, Baptist Church, Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, and Methodist Church. Many of these churches are still part of the Washington Island spiritual community. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is located on Towline Road on the island. Worship is held on Sunday at 10:45 am with Sunday School at 9:30 am. The Catholic faith does not have a church so they use Trinity Lutheran Church and hold mass on Sunday at 1:45 PM. Bethel Evangelical Free Church is located on Main Road and holds worship services on Sunday at 10:45 am, Sunday School at 9:45 am and has a Gospel Hour at 7:00 PM. This church is the oldest church on the island, it was built in 1865. The Christian Science Service is held at 10:00 am on Sunday in the American Legion Hall

on Main Road. The need for spiritual worship is still present among current islanders just as it was with the early settlers. It continues to be a viable part of the community, giving it a solid moral base to exist and grow.

The values and beliefs and traditions of Washington Island have roots that stem from its long history of cultural diversity. The diverse cultural community consists of English, Irish, Scottish, Icelandic, Norwegian, Dutch, Danish, German, and mainland America. This is a good sampling of the multiple heritages that make up the community's cultural base from which it draws many of its values and beliefs.

After reading the Washington Island Observer, the local newspaper, and talking with locals, a discovery of important values becomes evident. People on the island, like their ancestors, value family, friends, relationships, peace and tranquility, simple life style, nature and its preservation, and religion. The festivals, social functions, and town meetings lend support to the islanders value system. But a personal visit to the island will provide a permanent and lasting impression of the moral ethics, beliefs, and values of the islanders, probably desired by many large mainland communities.

Tradition and culture are expressed in their food, festivals,

religious beliefs, life style, and housing which is openly displayed on the island. Again, these items can be discovered in greater detail by visiting the island.

Many of the islanders are dependant on the environment for a living and they are dedicated to its preservation. The islands charm and quaintness comes from its people, climate, and geography. Resistance to exploitation of its environment by the islanders will provide them with many years of tourism and a strong economic base.

This assessment provides a brief and general description of Washington Islands core community. For a more indepth understanding of the island plan on visiting it or reading one or several of the numerous books, tourist maps, pamphlets, or brochures written about Washington Island and Door County. It will be a rewarding and fun experience.

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GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Washington Island organized into a municipality or town on June 20, 1850, one year before Door County organized. Initially the town of Washington Island was part of Brown County, but when the legislature separated Door County from Brown County on February 11, 1851, Washington Island officially became part of Door County.

Amos Saunders, was the first elected official serving as the town chairman. H.D. Miner was elected to the town clerk position and John A. Boone served as the justice of the peace. Despite the view that taxes were an unnecessary evil and no town assessor or treasurer was elected, the town of Washington Island experienced prosperous growth under the direction of these three men.

The first town meeting was held at the home of H.D. Miner, on Rock Island. The Wisconsin State Statutes served as the main source of information on the organization, powers, duties, and functions of the local government on Washington Island.

Some of the early issues residents of the Island grappled with were transportation, finances, and the influx of residents to the prosperous Island. Some of those same issues plague the residents of the Island 140 years later.

Currently, Chapter 60 of the Wisconsin State Statutes addresses the organization and functioning of town governments. According to the statutes the political process centers around the yearly town meeting and the town board.

At least one town meeting must be held annually and includes all qualified voters, not just elected officials. Special meetings can be called throughout the year at the request of 12 or more of the 300 registered voters. Meetings center around the past years activities, adoption of the budget, and the levying of taxes for town purposes. Additional agenda items may include snow removal and zoning changes.

The town board of Washington Island handles the day-to-day running of the town, and is made up of six elected officials, serving two year terms. The positions are filled by year round residents of the Island in a nonpartisan election held in the spring of the year. The town board consists of a town chairman, four supervisors, and one clerk treasurer. All of the members of the town board are part-time officials and receive a small salary.

The town board chairman is the key official and responsible for presiding at the board meetings and representing the Island on the county board. The chairman is also responsible for the conducting board meetings, signing documents, and assuring the administration of the statutes.

The four supervisors, the clerk, and the chair are responsible for carrying out decisions of the meetings such as creating sanitation districts, establishing zoning and building regulations, maintaining roads and providing for public improvements. On the Island the supervisors are assigned duties by the chair. The clerk is also responsible for conducting elections, preparing tax bills and maintaining records.

The town treasurer is responsible for keeping the financial records of the town as well as collecting and dispersing moneys on behalf of the Island. The assessor is responsible for setting property values for tax purposes.

The town board is also responsible for appropriating money on an annual basis to retain a physician to reside and practice on the Island. If a physician can not be retained the statutes allow for a physician assistant or a nurse practitioner to fill the position as long as they reside on the island.

The government is housed in the Community Center, sharing the space with the local library, medical and dental offices, and a gym which also serves as a meal site for the elderly population of the island. Yearly town meetings are held at the community center as well as special meetings.

Recently a special town meeting was held to discuss the grant for a Wastewater Pilot Project and Sand Filter System, under the Clean Water Act. The state has allocated moneys to the Island to see if a sand purification system is an alternative to the current septic system and holding tanks being used by the residents. Seven filtration systems have been installed with two additional systems left to be installed. The water samples have been very clean so far.

The sand purification system however is quite costly and the deadline for submitting the results of the study is near. The taxpayers have been left with the decision of proceeding with the information they have, applying for an extension so that the remaining two filtration systems can be installed at a significant expense to the tax payers, or apply now with only seven of the systems in and working to the DNR for acceptance.

Another issue that the residents of the Island are dealing with is their landfill. Under the new restrictions, residents are no longer permitted to burn their waste. They must take it to a landfill to be buried. They are concerned about the current

restrictions on what can and can not be placed in the landfill as well as what will happen long term. Especially since they have a very limited amount of space for landfills on the Island. Recycling is mandatory on the Island.

RESOURCES

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Government Officials of Washington Island

Wisconsin State Statutes, Chapter 60.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation on and off of the Island has been an issue since the first settlers came to the Island. Early settlers depended on boats or canoes to travel on and off of the Island. Some local historians state that during the winter, some residents skated back and forth across the frozen waters.

As early as 1859 steps were taken to establish a ferry line to and from the Island. Initial attempts however were not well received and it was not until 1860 that the county board granted the first ferry license or charter to E. S. Fuller. The ferry line consisted of the "usual style of boats" for passengers and two large canoes fastened together, covered by planking to transport teams and wagons. In 1873 the "usual style of boats" were replaced with a steam ferry.

The residents of the Island did not have the ability to travel on and off of the Island with their automobiles until 1923, when Bill Jepsen bought a car ferry by the name of Wisconsin. This ferry line was later purchased by C. J. Richter in 1940. Residents and visitors were delighted by the expansion of services under the new ownership. Under Mr. Richter, additional car and passenger ferries were added and in 1979 the first mechanically powered ferry crossed the waters from Northport Pier to Washington Island.

Residents and tourists now may choose between two ferry services which account for approximately 80% of the transportation on and off of the Island. Currently the ferry services are the Washington Island Ferry line Inc., and the Island Clipper.

The Washington Island Ferry provides both pedestrian and motor vehicle

transportation between the Northport Pier and the Island. It runs year round depending on the weather conditions. During the peak tourist season, it may run as many as twenty times between the Island and the pier. It takes approximately thirty minutes to make the journey between the two piers. As the tourist business slows during the fall and winter months, the ferry runs gradually decrease. In January, February, and March, the ferry runs from Northport to the Island, or from the Island to Northport each day. Advance reservations are required. Currently the round trip rate for an automobile and a driver is \$21.50. For a pedestrian the rate is \$6.50. Residents of the Island are not given discounts.

The Island Clipper, operated by Voight Marine, services only passengers. During peak season they run five shuttles between the Island and Gill's Rock. They discontinue their service to the Island during the middle part of October each year, resuming it during the Memorial Day weekend. Fairs for adult passengers are currently \$13.00 round trip.

Some seasonal residents and guests may also commute between the Island and the mainland via private boats or airplanes. The Island has several marinas and a municipal airport. The airport however does not have any scheduled flights on or off of the Island.

The Island does however have an active flying club. The club currently has 14 active members and since 1992 has licensed three pilots and soloed nine pilots. It has nine members with airplanes that are permanently based on the Island.

Intercity transportation is much more accessible. The Island boasts a network of both paved and gravel roads to all attractions and businesses. Automobiles, trucks,

and recreational vehicles are all a popular way of getting around the Island. Visitors to the Island may prefer using bicycles or mopeds to wander about. Yet there are many who prefer to walk between destinations. For those not inclined to bicycle, drive, or walk, there is one taxi.

The Cherry train is also a popular way of seeing the attractions for the visitors. The train provides a narrated, 90 minute tour of the Island and operates from Memorial Day through mid October.

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COMMUNICATION

With a permanent population of approximately 600 and a summer population well over two thousand, communication between the Island and the mainland and communication amongst the Islanders proves to be a challenge.

Washington Island does not have any local television or radio stations. All the local stations are transmitted from the mainland. Satellite dishes are abundant on the Island as well, providing Islanders with alternatives to the local stations.

Island communication is also facilitated by two news papers. The Washington Island Observer and the Door County Advocate.

The Washington Island Observer is a locally owned and published news letter. Recently celebrating their first year under new ownership, the Observer provides Islanders with local and regional news. The Observer is published weekly, July through August and biweekly September through June. Articles are written by staff as well as residents and friends of the Island. A typical issue might contain public service announcements, community news, advertisements, invitations, death and birth announcements, exciting events, historical information about the Island and poetry. The Observer also has an entertainment section filled with jokes, comics, and trivia.

The Door County Advocate, published twice a week also covers local and regional news. The Advocate was first published on March 22, 1862. It was the first newspaper published within the limits of Door County.

Telephone service to the Island was first established around 1910 in the form of party lines. Islanders could make local calls between the hours of 6:00 am and

9:00 pm, without incurring additional charges. However before or after those hours, calls were an additional ten cents. Long distance calls were made through the local Western Telegraph Company.

Service to the Island is now provided from the mainland by a cable running under the water. The residents now enjoy the same service the mainland does, at the same price.

Local church bulletins, public service bulletins, the Community Center bulletin board and word of mouth are also important ways of communicating on the Island.

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Government Official

1910 Phone Directory

Physical Environment of Washington Island

The assessment of the physical environment of Washington Island includes topography, land use, trash disposal/recycling, sewage and waste disposal, environmental health and water source testing and purification.

Topography is the physical description of the area including it's surface features. Washington Island is a rock island, the remnants of a glacier field. What is there was deposited as the glaciers melted. The land is mostly flat but does have a land area, along the shoreline, which is raised and is considered the "mountain area". A "look out tower" is located on the pile of rocks.

The soil on Washington Island tends to be rocky, this too is the result of the glacier. There is little depth to the soil. Most of the soil consists of sand. There are several gravel pits on the Island. The beaches surrounding the Island consist of sand, gravel rock or smooth cobble rock.

The tree cover on Washington Island is mixed hardwoods, pine and cedar trees.

Land use is minimal. Large potato farms were once the major use of the land but now there are none of these farms. One dairy farm remains and there is one farm that raises a type of Swiss beef cattle called Simmental. No land is actually tilled except for crops of hay. The land is used in conjunction with tourism. Resorts and beaches, along with

sand dunes, have the greatest land usage.

In 1834 the United States government sent a team of surveyors to Washington Island to establish primary meridians . With this established, the selling of the land could begin. This was marked by a pine tree and is known as the Witness tree. In 1885, by use of this tree and other markers, the land was divided into parcels.

Zoning of Washington Island is directed by the zoning ordinances of Door County. Minimum lot size is 60,000 square feet. Lake front lots have a width of 200 feet. Specific areas have been zoned for new mobile home placement.

There is no trash pick up on Washington Island. A licensed landfill serves as the central area for garbage disposal and everyone brings their own garbage to this area. Clean wood and paper is burned. Aluminum, tin, glass and plastic is recycled.. These are taken off the Island by truck. The rest of the trash is buried. Recycling and burning is used because space is a premium and not to be wasted burying garbage. In January, 1995, state regulations will ban the type of landfill that is used on Washington Island. Plans have already been made to close the landfill in April of 1994.

Because of the care taken at their landfill, birds and animals do not pose any problems with the garbage.

Land owners have their own sewage systems. These include holding tanks, mound system, septic tanks, and a few abandoned outhouses.

The mound system is the septic system most frequently used on Washington Island. The reason is because of the soil depth. The mound is filled with stones and sand fill and then covered. The sewage is pumped into the mound and filtered down through the stones and fill.

Currently, an alternative system for septic waste is being studied. Approximately five years ago a planning committee was formed to evaluate the waste water system on the Island. The concern was about soil depth and absorption fields and separations in the rock base of the island with the result of possible degradation of ground water. The cost, in dollars, of an Island wide sewage system was high due to the distance between homes and the need to blast through the rocks. A new system being studied is a recirculating sand filter system. This pilot study is funded through the Department of Natural Resources(DNR) under the Clean Water Loan Fund. Seven systems are currently being studied. These systems are replacing the current systems of seven volunteers whose systems were failing. The sand filter system consists of a septic tank, sand filter, and settling area. The sewage is pumped in, passes through the sand filter, settles (where organisms work on bacteria and waste) and then the water is recirculated through the sand and filtered out. The purpose of the system is to decrease the nitrates in the soil to meet the health standards of 10mg/liter. Data has been recorded on these seven systems with the completion of the study in July, 1994. Concern from

the Island community is that the system has not been tried with multiple dwellings using one system. Analysis and results of the data will be handled by the DNR and Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations (DILHR). At present, this system has not been recognized by codes for its performance and operations. Approval will be determined by the DNR and DILHR, with the latter presently making changes in its regulations.

Water source for the Island is through individual wells. Water gets into the well system by rain and snow. The soil and rock, the water passes through, provides the purification. Since the soil acts as the first filter, the type and amount of soil is important for the purification. Sand is the primary type of soil on the Island. Water passes quickly through this and thereby decreases the efficiency of filtration. Limestone rock is the primary rock in the base of the Island. The limestone rock, composed of hardened calcium carbonate (substance responsible for "hard" water), is fractured or multi-creviced, again allowing the water to pass through quickly, also decreasing its purification. The water then re-enters the system through individual wells. Most of the old wells are shallow, approximately 30 feet deep. Due to the natural purification process, these wells are at a greater risk of contamination by run-off and bacteria. New wells that are dug, must be at least 175 feet deep and usually average 200-240 feet in depth. With the deeper wells, the water has better purifications through

deeper rock formations. Upon completion of the digging of new wells, the water is tested. Mandatory newly dug well testing is for bacteria but many test also for nitrates and fluoride. Nitrates are associated with waste disposal and may indicate problems with waste disposal. Fluoride does not occur naturally in the Island's water supply. Fluoride can be supplemented via oral medication, per physician order.

There are three areas of concern on the Island in regard to the ground water supply. Two sites are former gas stations and the remaining site is at the operating gas station. Contamination of the ground water was linked to orphan gas tanks and solvents once used to clean car parts of grease and oil. Recommendations made to the surrounding well owners were not to use the water for drinking or cooking. These wells continue to be monitored by the DNR water testing division.

Electricity, which came to the Island in 1939, is provided by Wisconsin Public Service in Green Bay and distributed through Wisconsin Electric Co-op, REA. The electricity is transmitted via a cable underwater which was laid in 1981. Prior to the cable, electricity to the residents was provided by Island owned generators. Presently there are six back-up generators. In case of a power outage, the generators are used to provide electricity. It takes about one hour to start up the generators. The number of power outages per year corresponds with the number in Door county because of the sharing of the source of electricity.

Outages only on the Island, would be caused by problems with the cable, the link from the mainland.

Heating of homes is provided by wood, oil, electricity and propane gas. The major use is oil, and it is trucked by ferry, from the mainland.

Resources

Department of Natural Resources. Environmental Quality
Division. Lake Michigan District. Green Bay, Wisconsin

Department of Natural Resources. Municipal Waste Water
Management. Madison, Wisconsin.

Public Officials. Washington Island Governing Body.

Washington Island Observer.

Wisconsin Electric Co-op. Washington Island, Wisconsin.

Economics

Having once depended on farming and fishing to dominate the local economy on Washington Island, the community now definitely focuses on the tourism industry. Through zoning and planning, the economy can continue to grow while retaining the charm and beauty of the Island and its people.

At present, there are no dairy farms on the Island, primarily because of the cost to ship the milk to be processed. Few crops are grown and some beef cattle are being raised.

Fishing, having once been the focal point of the Island economy, has been reduced to approximately three commercial fishing boats. While you may still buy fresh fish near the docks, most of the fish caught are regularly shipped to city markets.

Perhaps the largest year round employer has that distinction because the service that this employer provides is the central focus of the Island. Every individual and business is somewhat dependent on the Washington Island Ferry Service. The service employs approximately 8 year-round employees and approximately 30 employees during the height of the summer season. The Ferry Service has had the same president for the last 53 years. In fact, a book has been written

regarding the life of Mr. Arni Richter, entitled Over and Back - Fifty Years. The Assistant Manager of the Ferry Service states that everything needed to sustain or maintain life on the Island is transported via the ferry. Maximum width of any load is 15 feet. For example, a 28 x 52 model home was transported to the Island recently, but in sections that were each 14'x 52'.

Adult residents on Washington Island are not given an economic break when they utilize the ferry service, but all children and young adults, while continuing their education, are transported free of charge as long as they remain Washington Island residents.

Most all employees work on the Island. One resident has a shop in another Door County town where he travels to quite regularly. A representative of the Chamber of Commerce believes that two workers travel the ferry daily to work in the restaurant on the other dock.

Modern technology has allowed many more people to remain on the Island with only occasional trips to mainland job sites. Computers with modems and fax machines have refurbished the age old idea of the creative retreat. In the beautiful setting of Island life, authors and artists, as well as draftsmen and research personnel, can continue their work at home.

Washington Island is the home of two mail-order businesses. One, Sievers Looms, features Island built and designed weaving looms. Made from birch or cherry lumber, the looms are available in kits or plan sheets for the home craftsman. The other, Sievers Benchwork, manufactures pine modular layout systems for model railroad hobbyists. (1)

All employment levels are available on the Island. Professionals, such as a Physician or Dentist have regular or routinely scheduled hours on the Island. And as in any community, there are blue-collar jobs available in construction, realty, grocery, banking, and much more.

When looking at the economic aspect of any community, especially small communities, you may find a concept that has fully evolved here on Washington Island. Volunteerism! Without volunteers, having the amount of services that are available, would be economically unfeasible. As the Clerk of Courts stated in an interview, a typical person may have their regular job, then volunteer as an EMT or School Board member, watch another couples' kids while they're working, and then help out during the height of the tourist season at one of the local shops or motels. It is noted that these volunteers are an essential ingredient in the economic success of Washington

Island.

Tourism and Recreation remain the foremost type of industry on the Island. Using the most current brochure "Explore Washington and Rock Islands", it is noted that there are 14 motels and hotels, along with many cottages and Bed and Breakfasts. The Island seems to be dotted with restaurants and shops, but as this observer noted, none are overbearing or pushy. Seems that the citizens of Washington Island, through their happiness and welcoming spirits, are selling the idea of a peaceful, tranquil Island life, more so than any knick knack, or Island memorabilia. Perhaps that is because their happiness is so easily seen by Island newcomers.

None of the businesses or industries have utilized Occupational Health Nursing Services. If a need arises, they utilize the clinic or Door County Public Health Nurses.

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Housing

At the current time, approximately 623 permanent residents live on Washington Island. In the summer months, the number of Island inhabitants swells to several thousand as a result of tourism industry. This segment of the community assessment will deal with housing on the Island.

Historically, the Native Americans were the first people to make their homes on Washington Island. At the Potawatomi village near Little Lake, there are "definite markings of a longhouse", a large rectangular-type home common to the Iroquois tribe (Whitney, 1973, p.11). The tepee, however, was probably the most common form of housing for Native Americans on the Island.

In 1851, James W. Crow arrived on Washington Island and proceeded to build a spacious home that came to be known as the White House. Crow, however, soon lost his zest for the Island when his barn worth over \$3000.00 burned to the ground under questionable circumstances (Whitney, 1973). The White House was subsequently sold a number of times, though tenants never stayed long. It eventually became a hotel, then later a summer camp for girls. Two years short of its centennial birthday, the house was razed. The lumber salvaged was "still

almost as strong as new" (Whitney, 1973, p. 27).

Another home of historical interest was built in 1857 by Mr. Oddur Magnusson. The home became affectionately known as the "Icelandic Castle". For years it was an apartment for newcomers to the Island, especially Icelanders (Whitney, 1973).

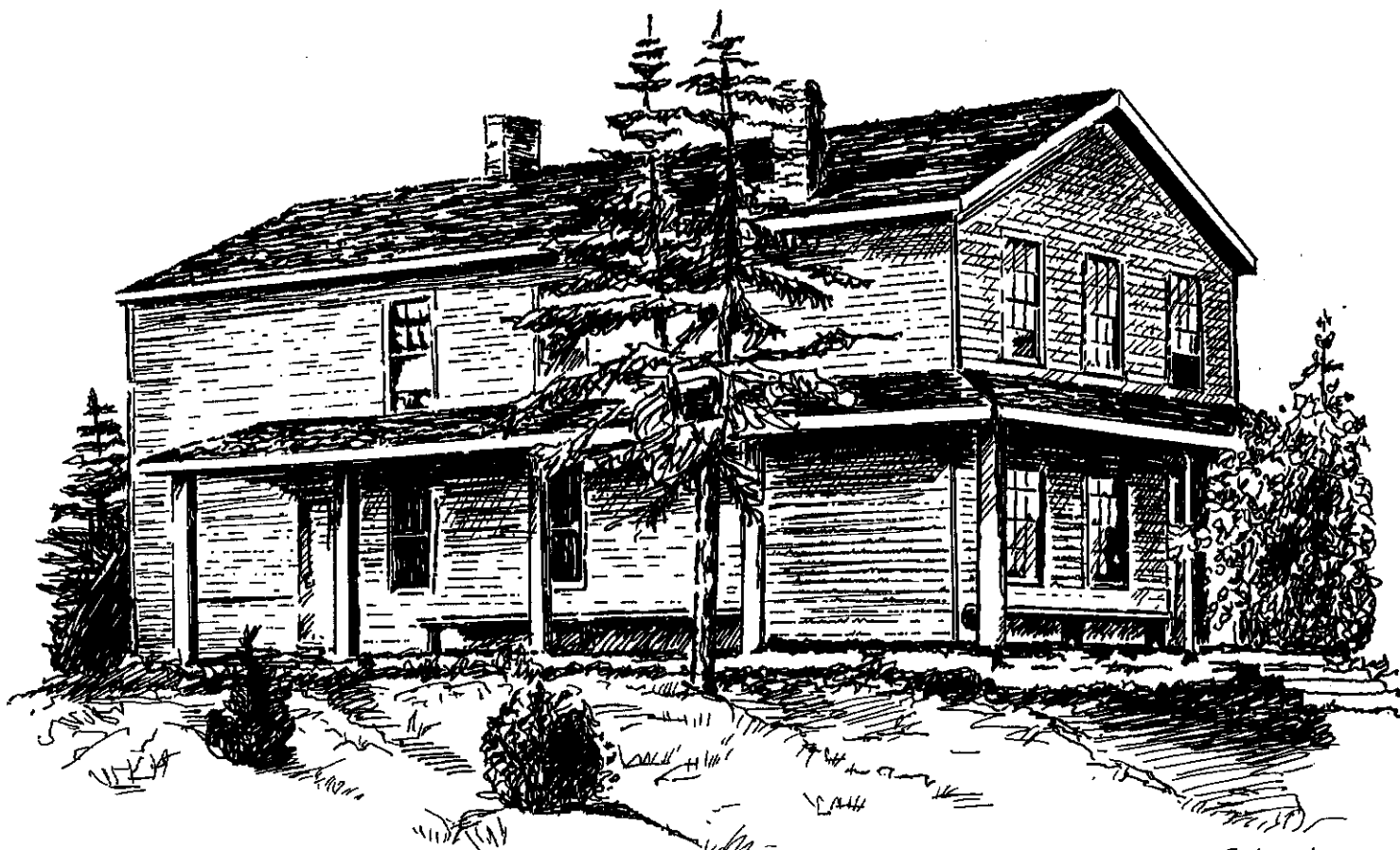
Initially, most of the homes on the island were log houses. By 1890, many of the log buildings were being used as milk sheds or summer kitchens, while new homes of clapboard heralded the increasing civilization of Washington Island. According to Holand (1917), "It's farm houses are of such a superior construction as to compare favorably with those of most townships in the state" (p. 267).

Currently, a large number of homes on the Island are summer homes. Houses are scattered throughout the Island, on both the shoreline and inland. According to real estate agents, homes on the island are all privately owned and generally well kept up. Unsanitary living conditions, they report, are not a problem. A tour of the Island supports this conclusion.

Washington Island was the first Door County township to adopt zoning laws. Residents are conscious of maintaining property values through enforced zoning.

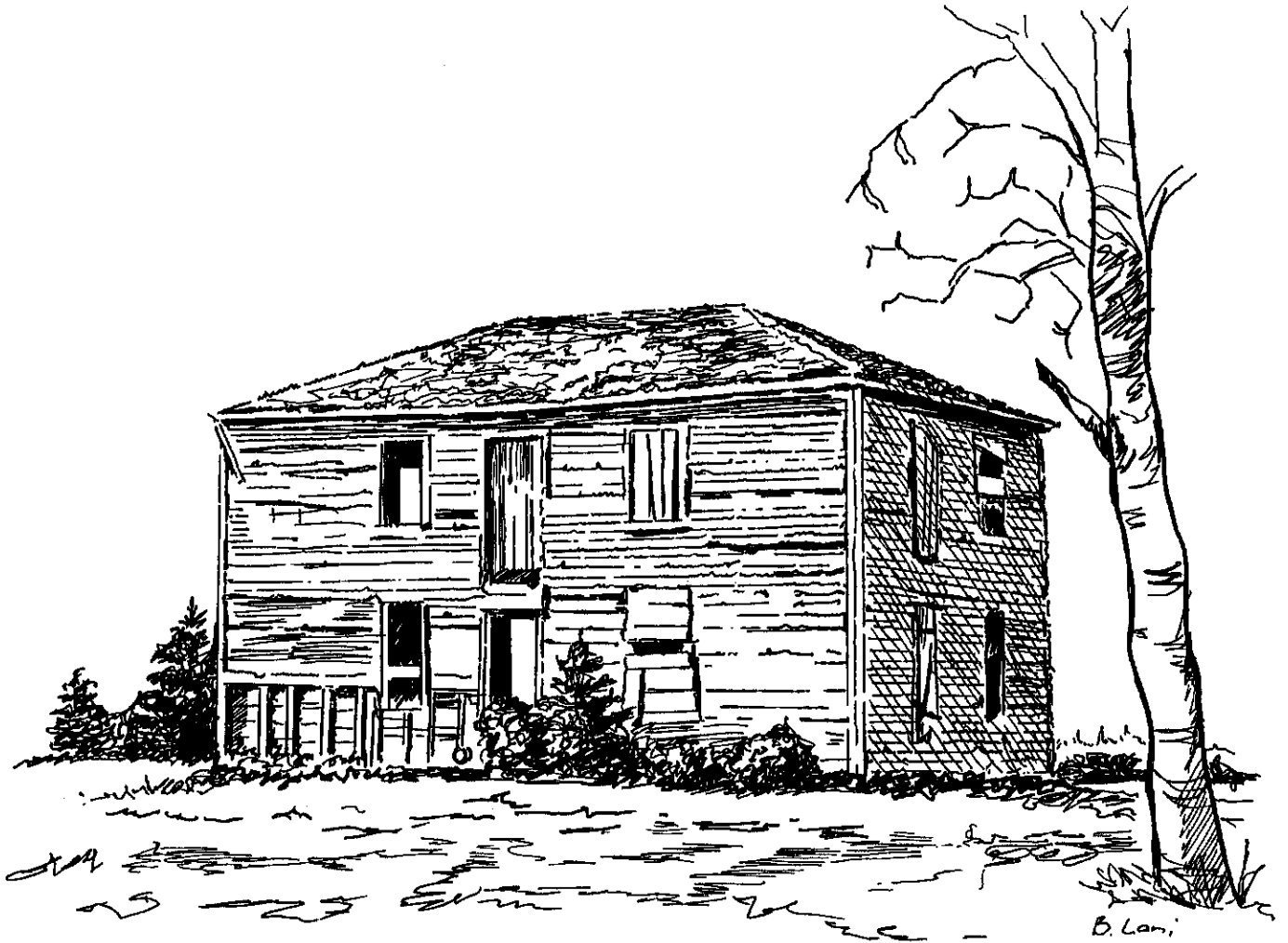
A survey of real estate brochures indicates that current housing values range from approximately \$50,000 to \$175,000. There are several townhouses available on the Island. Further development of townhouses is in the planning. There are no duplexes or apartment houses on the Island. There are, however, two housing complexes for low income elderly and disabled. Willkommen I was built in 1976 and contains eight units. Willkommen II was built in 1992 and also contains eight units. Currently, fourteen of the sixteen units are filled. Rental cost is based on 30% of adjusted gross income.

In addition to the previously mentioned housing, there are several businesses on Washington Island that serve the tourist population. These businesses include hotels, motels, bed and breakfast establishments, resorts and campgrounds. Restaurants, taverns, and various shops are also located on the Island. Undeveloped shoreline and inland property is available for purchase and there are several real estate agencies on the Island to assist with housing needs.



WHITE HOUSE

B. Lani



ICELANDIC CASTLE

B. Lani

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Health and social services

The provision of health care and social services is an important asset to any community regardless of geographic location or population. The following is an overview of health care and social services offered to the residents of Washington Island.

Washington Island, Wisconsin is a small community located off the mainland of Door County. It is a town of approximately 600 people whose social and health care needs are similar to other rural communities. The citizens of the island are served by several different social services and health care professionals. Offices located in the Community Center on the island house the services of family medicine, dentistry, optometry and psychiatric counseling. Professional nursing care is provided by nursing agencies located on the mainland. There are no hospitals or nursing homes on the island.

The island has had continuous residential physician coverage for the last eight years. The present physician began practicing on the island through the National Health Service Corps Program. This government assisted program places physicians in areas that are in need of physician coverage.

Prior to this, medical care was provided at different times by a Physicians Assistant, Nurse Practitioner and Dr. Paul

Rutledge from St. Louis, Missouri.

Dr. Rutledge practiced on the island for approximately 17 years. The residents of Washington Island have honored his memory with the naming of the Rutledge Room in the Community Center. Dr. Rutledge is buried on Washington Island.

There are no nursing agencies or independently employed nurses located on the island. Professional referrals made to nursing agencies for home care are provided by the Porter Kiehnau agency of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. A registered nurse, employed by the Porter Kiehnau nursing agency, admits new island patients to their program. Additional nursing care is provided by a licensed practical nurse who is a resident of the island and employed by Porter Kiehnau. The home care services of Door County Memorial Hospital of Sturgeon Bay are also provided on the island. The Public Health nurses of Door County, whose office is located in Sturgeon Bay, visit the island every other month during the months of April through October. The Public Health nurses do not provide home care but offer health maintenance and disease prevention clinics in the Community Center. The Door County nurses also visit the people of Washington Island during the winter months but this is under special circumstances. The unpredictable, inclement weather of the area can often make traveling difficult.

The medical doctor on Washington Island provides office hours for the entire island population from Monday through Friday. Twenty four hour medical coverage and house calls are also provided for the residents. This service is also provided during the summer months when the island population increases due to tourism. Two physician trained office assistants work with the doctor in the community clinic. There are no licensed nurses employed in the medical office at this time.

Some of the medical equipment and supplies located in the physician's office are an x-ray machine, laboratory instruments and a medication dispensary. The x-ray machine is used primarily for viewing simple breaks of extremity bones and for obtaining an occasional routine chest x-ray. Routine laboratory work is drawn and interpreted by the island physician. Laboratory tests that require additional instrumentation capabilities and readings are sent to The Marshfield Clinic in Marshfield, Wisconsin. These laboratory specimens are first spun down by the office assistant in preparation for further testing at the Marshfield Clinic. There are no pharmacies located on the island. The island physician dispenses medication to patients as needed. Medications not available on the island can be obtained from the mainland. Referrals to mainland professionals are made by the island physician when additional specializing and testing is required for patient diagnosis and treatment.

Certain health circumstances warrant medical preparation by the patient and doctor. Expectant mothers close to delivery date travel off the island and stay with family or friends until delivery. Availability of neonatal and maternal care units in mainland hospitals provide an important service for island women and their babies especially in cases of emergencies or unexpected medical situations.

All age groups of the island's population are seen by the Washington Island physician. Approximately one half of the patients seen on the island are of retirement age. Chronic health problems, social problems, communicable diseases and injuries seen on the island are within the norm for the general, national population.

Normally when a hospital setting is necessary during a health emergency, the patient is transported by ferry from the island to the mainland. During good weather this trip takes approximately 30-40 minutes. Door County Ambulance then transports the patient to Door County Memorial Hospital in Sturgeon Bay. Door County Memorial Hospital is located nearest to Washington Island with a travel distance on the mainland of approximately 50 miles. Patients may then be further transported to hospitals in Green Bay, Wisconsin or larger metropolitan areas for additional technological skills and resources.

Washington Island has the "911" emergency service and volunteer emergency medical technicians. Critical patient conditions can employ the use of "The Theda Star" helicopter from Theda Clark Hospital in Neenah, Wisconsin. Based on the island during the summer months, The Coast Guard boat can travel from island to mainland in seven minutes. In extreme cases when the ferry is unable to run due to the weather, the Coast Guard Helicopter from Traverse City, Michigan is used for patient airlift transportation. Overall, ferry transportation to the mainland with ambulance service to the hospital is the preferred mode of travel because less arrangement time and travel to the island is needed.

Door County Memorial Hospital, established in 1943, serves the people of Washington Island. The hospital is a licensed 89 bed facility accredited by the Joint Commission of Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. The closest located nursing home to Washington Island is Scandia Nursing Home of Sister Bay, Wisconsin. This nursing home is located approximately 10 miles from Northport, the car port site used for ferry docking on the mainland.

Additional health care services provided to the people of Washington Island are in the areas of dentistry, optometry and counseling. These services are provided by professionals who practice on the island but most are not residents. Presently,

general dentistry services are available on a bi-weekly clinic schedule and weekly during the months of January, February, and March. At this time there are no dental specialists who visit the island, referrals are made to Green Bay. Since 1974, consistent dental service has been offered to the residents of Washington Island. In emergency situations, patients can be immediately seen at the dentist's main office in Sister Bay. Medications needed in acute patient care can be obtained from Washington Island's medical physician.

Door County provides Washington Island with the monthly services of a master's prepared counselor. Counseling sessions are held at locations on the island agreed upon by the client and counseling psychologist. Additional visits for counseling sessions are arranged as needed. A resident counselor also provides professional counseling services to the residents of Washington Island.

An optometrist provides weekly eye care services on the island during the months of May through September. During winter months, residents visit mainland offices in Sister Bay and Sturgeon Bay. A therapeutic drug license held by the optometrist, permits the treatment of minor eye conditions and diseases. Eye exams, contact lens fittings, removal of foreign bodies are some of the duties performed by the eye doctor on the island. The present optometrist has been serving the

people of Washington Island for ten years and was the first to provide contact lens fittings in the island office.

Social service programs are offered on the island by the Door County Social Services Department. Some of the programs offered are; WIC, Energy Assistance, Food Stamps, Child Welfare, Income Maintenance, HUD and Domestic Abuse programs.

The Center for Health Statistics, Wisconsin Division of Health, Department of Health and Social Services has compiled the following statistics regarding Door County, Wisconsin which includes Washington Island. No specific statistics are available for Washington Island.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1991

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| LIVE BIRTHS----- | 322 |
| TOTAL DEATHS----- | 292 |

SELECTED UNDERLYING CAUSES OF DEATH

| | |
|---|----|
| Heart Disease Total----- | 96 |
| Cancer----- | 67 |
| Cerebrovascular Disease----- | 25 |
| Injuries----- | 9 |
| Pneumonia, Influenza, & Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease----- | 23 |
| Alcohol & Other Drug Abuse----- | 0 |

MORBIDITY

Reported Cases of Selected Diseases (1991)

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Campylobacter Enteritis----- | 11 |
| Giardiasis----- | 8 |
| Hepatitis Type A----- | <5 |
| Hepatitis Type B* ----- | <5 |
| Hepatitis NANB/C** ----- | <5 |
| Legionnaires'----- | 0 |
| Lyme----- | <5 |
| Measles----- | 0 |
| Meningitis, Aseptic----- | 0 |
| Meningitis, Bacterial----- | 0 |
| Mumps----- | 0 |
| Pertussis----- | 0 |
| Salmonellosis----- | 5 |
| Shigellosis----- | 0 |
| Tuberculosis----- | <5 |

* Includes HBV carriers

** Includes HCV screens

MORBIDITY (cont.)

Sexually Transmitted Disease

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Chlamydia Trachomatis----- | 26 |
| Genital Herpes----- | 5 |
| Gonorrhea----- | <5 |
| Penicillin Resistant (PPNG)----- | 0 |
| Nongonococcal Cervicitis----- | 0 |
| Nongonoccal Urethritis----- | 0 |
| Syphilis----- | <5 |

IMMUNIZATIONS

Children Without Required Immunizations

| School | Number | Percent |
|-------------|--------|---------|
| Grades K-12 | 86 | 1.8 |

PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS IN DOOR COUNTY FOR THE YEAR 1991

Primary Care Physicians

Specialty

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Internal Medicine----- | 1 |
| General Practice----- | 2 |
| Obstetrics/Gynecology----- | 2 |
| Pediatrics----- | 0 |
| Family Practice----- | 6 |
| Psych./Child Psych.----- | 0 |

Primary Care Physician to Population Ratio - 1 : 2,553

Other Primary Care Providers

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Physician Assistant, 1991----- | 3 |
| Nurse Practitioner, 1990-1991----- | 2 |
| Certified Nurse Midwife, 1991----- | 0 |

Local Public Health Agency Staffing

| Full-Time Equivalents | <u>Number</u> | <u>Rate per 10,000 pop.</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Total Staff | 13 | 5.2 |
| Administrator | 1 | 0.4 |
| Public Health Nurse | 3 | 1.1 |

References:

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of Health, Center for Health Statistics (1992). Vital
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Island.

Door County Memorial Hospital information booklet.

EDUCATION

The people on Washington Island are friendly, family-oriented, and proud of their island and their heritage. They are also proud of their one and only school which is committed to excellence as noted by the sign on the front lawn. Built in 1986, the school is a modern, one-story rectangular brick building set back approximately 300 feet from the main road with a circular drive surrounded by well-groomed grounds. Next to the school sits a large bell from the Detroit Harbor School which stood near this same site from 1919 to 1986.

There are twelve classrooms in the school with an enrollment of 113 students in kindergarten through 12th grade. On the elementary end of the school, the kindergarten class has its own classroom. Grades 1 and 2 share a classroom as do grades 3 and 4, and also grades 5 and 6. The classroom for grades 7 and 8 is on the high school end of the building.

On the high school side of the building is the shop with an adjoining technical educational room. There is also a business education/computer room with ten MacIntosh computers. Each of the elementary classrooms has a computer. The English/History classroom is where Spanish, the only foreign language offered, can be taken as early as 7th grade. The science lab/math classroom is also located on this end of the building as well as a large commons room with a small kitchenette which is used for classroom projects. It is not state approved for a hot lunch program.

There are 13 staff teachers, three of them part time. There is a full-time special education teacher certified to work with 12 students who are considered to have learning disabilities. None of the students are with the special education teacher all the time. She

acts as a resource person to the assigned classroom teacher during the first hour where she monitors the students progress in the regular classroom. There are no cognitively disabled or physically handicapped students. The part-time kindergarten teacher also teaches high school dance, as well as working five hours weekly with students in kindergarten through second grade who are not placed in special education.

Health education, required by the state, is provided to grades 7 and 8 as a separate subject. Sex education is included in Health Education. Health is also incorporated into science at the elementary level, which is taught in various units such as handwashing, nutrition, and safety. Last year the parents could view an AIDS video and decide if their children should watch it in the classroom. A committee worked on Human Growth and Development but this was never approved by the school board.

The curriculum is teacher directed where each teacher has a lot of freedom in planning and choosing what is taught. Emphasis is placed on reading skills in the elementary grades. In the higher grades, technical education such as problem solving and computer skills are the priorities. The UW system offers teacher inservice on the island via satellite. Eventually the students will have the opportunity to take courses in this fashion.

Parents volunteer their time helping in the classroom. There is also a parent-teacher organization with the primary focus being to supply information to parents on interesting topics and to bring school and home together.

The extra-curricular activities for the elementary grades are intramural basketball and soccer, and for high school students, the activities include soccer, basketball, and track where the students leave the island to compete. Girls can also compete in soccer and track. Last year softball was offered to the girls, too. The high school students taking speech also

have the opportunity to compete in Forensics. Music is taught by the classroom teacher in kindergarten through grade six. High school students can apply for music credit if private lessons are taken such as piano.

The use of drugs was not considered to be a problem at Washington Island School, but there is a concern about alcohol consumption on the island. Parents, six high school students, and the Door County AODA Committee recently met at the school to discuss the use of alcohol on the island to see if there is a problem, and as students, parents, and a community, what could be done about it. Last year the Door County AODA sent several counselors to the island who provided presentations on Violence-Free Relationships, Peer Refusal Training (learning to say "no"), and Date Rape.

A work study program is offered to Special Education students as juniors and seniors where for two hours daily, four days a week, the students are placed in island businesses where they learn how to work with employers, how to follow directions, how to write resumes, and learn about goal-setting.

There is a variety of higher education schools to choose from. Seniors attend the annual College Day every fall at St. Norbert College where several colleges are represented. Many graduates go on to attend Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, the UW system, and even the private colleges.

There is a lot of pride and educational opportunity offered at the Washington Island School. The teachers and staff are hard-working and dedicated, giving their students the best education possible so that they, too, can be proud of their community and heritage.

REFERENCES

Personal Communication Personnel at Washington Island School .

CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

To recreate is to make new again. Recreational activities are vital to the overall health of a community. They reduce stress, provide enjoyment, and help make the community a more pleasant place to work and live.

The community of Washington Island sees a lot of activity in the Washington Island Recreation Center. This beautiful facility has a 32'x60' swimming pool, whirlpool, exercise room, locker rooms, meeting and game room, and two outdoor tennis courts. It is maintained through annual pass and user fees and through an endowment fund. The recreation center is conveniently located between Washington Island Community Center and the school.

Summer on Washington Island is a time to take part in many sports activities including: baseball (Door County League), tennis, swimming, golf, fishing, biking, mini-golf, and horseback riding. In the winter, cross-country skiing, and hunting and fishing are popular.

Many residents are active in club activities. Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts have both been organized on the island since 1923; the younger Cub Scouts and Brownies started in 1950. The Washington Island Women's Club, which started in April of 1944 to promote cultural and civic

advancement, is still active today. There are also Lions Club, Sportsman Club, American Legion, and groups from the island's Bethel Evangelical Free Church and Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The Art & Nature Center at the corner of Main & Jackson Harbor Road displays examples of many art forms seen through history, including paintings, photography, music, crafts, woodwork, and pottery. There are also nature hikes and classes, and a Music Festival hosted by the center in August.

The Red Barn, on South Range Line Road, offers summer programs of music featuring local talent, and other family events. It is sponsored by the Community Center Committee.

The island's maritime history is displayed in two former fishing sheds in Jackson Harbor--the Jackson Harbor Maritime Museum.

On the south shore of Little Lake is the Jacobsen Museum, built by the late Jens Jacobsen, who came from Denmark in 1881. Mr. Jacobsen was a farmer and fisherman, and also a naturalist who collected relics of the Potawatomi Indian culture, and opened his own museum in 1931.

The Washington Island Farm Museum, on Jackson Harbor Road, is an educational experience with special children's programs featured each Wednesday, July through August.

Original island log buildings and horse-drawn farm machinery are on display.

There is one county park on Washington Island, East Side County Park. Other parks include Jackson Harbor Ridges, Mount Lookout Park where you can climb the tower and enjoy the view, Sand Dunes Public Beach, and Schoolhouse Public Beach.

The Siever School of Fiber Arts holds weeklong and weekend classes for adults with dormitory facilities available. The annual enrollment exceeds 450 students, and there is a staff of thirty professional artist/teachers. Samples of hand-crafted items are sold in a shop, Sievers at Den Norske Grenda, on Main Road.

There is a town library located in the Washington Island Community Center, which is a branch of the Door County Library. Books from the main library are loaned to the island. The first library on Washington Island was organized in 1903 by the Detroit Harbor Ladies Aid Society. It was a self-service library consisting of books that were donated and shelved in the main room of the meeting house. By 1940, after a donation of one thousand books from a private collection in Milwaukee, the island decided it needed a real public library. A library board was elected

on May 5, 1941, and in the early 1950's, the town library became a part of the Door County Library System.

Although there is no cinema on the island, videos of feature movies can be rented at Viking Video, and a short trip off the island gives the community access to a drive-in and indoor theatres.

Peninsula Players summer stock theater is located in Fish Creek, on the northern Door peninsula. Also in Fish Creek is the Door County Auditorium, which hosts a variety of entertainment throughout the year.

Teenagers living on the island are like teenagers everywhere, spending their leisure time with friends. Trips off the island are primarily made with family when the need arises. The Red Barn is reportedly a popular spot for teens during the summer.

With tourism being the main industry on the island, many recreational areas are only open during the "season", May through October. The island residents seem to look at the off season as a time to recuperate, however. They spend their leisure time with friends and family.

Gone is his wigwam from the village site away;
Gone, his canoe from the Lake and the Bay;
Gone, the papoose; Gone, the young and old--
Only through his relics, the story is told.
To appreciate them, you must see them.
They are on display at Jacobsen's Museum.

-- Jens Jacobsen (1867-1952)

PUBLIC PROTECTION SERVICES

In assessing the overall health of a community it is important to look at the public protection services provided for the residents. These include emergency medical treatment, police protection, fire protection, and prevention and management of natural and physical disasters.

Washington Island Rescue has been in operation for twenty years. The rescue squad consists of nine Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's), and twelve First Responders who receive their training through Northeast Wisconsin Technical College. There are two ambulances, and depending on the nature of the emergency, the ambulance will either alert pilots to operate the ferry to take them to the mainland without delay, or wait until the next scheduled ferry crossing. A county ambulance meets the Washington Island Rescue Squad at Northport pier to take over the transport, allowing the island ambulance to return on the ferry. The EMT's carry pagers; all emergency calls go through the 911 dispatcher in Sturgeon Bay, and then back to personnel up on the island. An average of seventy-five 911 calls are received per year. Other options for transporting a patient in need of emergency care include using the Theda Star helicopter from Neenah, Wisconsin, or the United States

any revenue to the town, but instead go to the County of Door. In the off-season, the full time officer cuts back his hours, giving him the opportunity to attend seminars and other continuing education programs. A county officer is provided to give police coverage while the full time officer is away. A county officer also brings the "D A R E" program, for drug and alcohol awareness, to the school's fourth or fifth graders.

Fire protection on Washington Island is provided by a volunteer department. The Fire Department was organized in February of 1949, the first squad starting with three volunteers. Today, there are thirty volunteer firemen; they receive their training from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College. The department's equipment includes two pumpers, two tankers, one equipment van, and one 4X4 pickup truck with pump for grass fires. All fire calls go through the 911 dispatcher. Property owners are all encouraged to keep their property fire numbers close to the phone in case of emergency. The Washington Island Fire Department receives an average of fifteen fire calls per year.

Washington Island is covered in the County of Door's Emergency Disaster Plan. Stop signs, police patrols, fire numbers, and required permits for burning, all help to

prevent hazards, as does the judgment of the ferry operators concerning crossing in severe weather conditions.

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Nursing Diagnoses

COMMUNITY NURSING DIAGNOSES

Attributes:

1. Positive community self-esteem related to preservation of independence, cultural identity, and a shared history.
2. Low stress lifestyle related to effective adaptation to island living.
3. Prosperous tourism industry related to the uniqueness of island living, and interest in the oldest Icelandic community in the United States.
4. Active community involvement in government related to a strong sense of pride in the community, and opportunities to work together.

COMMUNITY NURSING DIAGNOSES

Problem:

1. Areas of contaminated groundwater related to unused underground gas tanks and past improper disposal of gas station solvents.

Potential Changes:

1. Potential for inadequate community services (fire and police protection, and health care) during summer months, related to increased tourist population without increased personnel to provide services.
2. Potential for inadequate solid waste disposal related to geological rock formation, soil depth, and limited land availability.
3. Potential for groundwater contamination related to present sewage waste disposal system.
4. Potential for effective sewage disposal related to the pending outcome of the recirculating sand filter system pilot study.

Windshield Surveys

Finding My Island

The sun shone brightly through the colorful array of trees, as a gentle wind blew out of the north. It seemed ironic that such a beautiful day could conceal the rough fury of the water surrounding the island; particularly the narrow, six-mile passage connecting Lake Michigan and Green Bay. The Native Americans had fittingly named this passageway the Door to Death. But now, only the quiet and serenity of the island lay before me. It was early October, and the tourist season was drawing to an end. An occasional car rambled down the main road in town. I pulled into an empty parking spot - one of several - and glanced at the rustic natural-wood exterior of the restaurant. Its simplicity blended well with the quiet beauty of the outdoors. The inside of the restaurant was unadorned and functional. Only a small display of fishing equipment decorated one corner of the dining area. No hostess appeared to seat our small group, so we hesitantly took a seat at one of the empty tables. A group of four men at a nearby table looked briefly our way, then returned to their conversation. There were no suits or ties on these men. Their dress reflected a more easy-going, amiable way of life. Their voices rang with friendship and camaraderie, in contrast

to the reserved business-like voices overheard during lunch in the city. They were islanders, these men, living at a different, slower pace than the rest of us. As one resident had remarked, living on the island was, in many ways, like taking a step back twenty years in time.

Gradually, our waitress, who was also the cook, came to take our order...wondering out loud if she would have the entrees that we chose. She returned to the kitchen, but not until stopping to share a few good natured words with the group of men at the next table. Meanwhile, our conversation turned to our mission on the island, as we mapped out our plans and our time schedule for the remainder of the day. Our lunch arrived and I ate hurriedly, taking little time to savor the food. I checked my watch before we departed, calculating the time needed to quickly tour the island and catch our ferry back.

It was not until late that evening, in the quiet darkness of my room, that I had time to reflect on my trip to the island. When did my life become so busy that the sense of hurry seems the norm? (On the island time seems to take on a new meaning.) I entertain the thought of a quiet, romantic weekend on the island, but could I adapt to this gently paced lifestyle on a permanent basis? I wondered what it would be

evidenced by the wood stacked high along the side of the house. There is a long, narrow concrete slab the length of the house, where a small brown bird feeder hangs from one of the gables. Next to the house is a two-stall detached garage in the same yellow. Hanging from a ten foot spindly tree on their lawn is a metal sign which reads "Posted - Keep Out." The only activity about the house was when a middle-aged woman drove up in a dark colored sedan and walked into the house.

During my survey, two cars (probably tourists) turned around in the clearing, otherwise it was quiet with only the leaves falling in the breeze. The only thing I wish is to go back in the summer and feel the warmth of the sun on my face as I sit on the beach and not in my car.

Gail Larsen

"THE LAWYER"

Columbus day, October 11, 1993, what a beautiful day. It is near noon as I settled into a table at K.K Fiske Restaurant for lunch. The fall colors were at their peak and I have yet to see any of the island except the Community Center. Waiting for a menu I watch the cars go past, many of them where on the ferry with me earlier in the morning. In a very short time, I see vehicles from California, New Mexico, Connecticut, Nebraska, Illinois, and Wisconsin. I sit and wonder to myself, what attracts people from so far away to this tiny little Island in the middle of no where?

The waitress finally brings me a menu, and I eagerly scan through it quickly settling on a cheeseburger and fries. While I am waiting for the waitress to return, I observe the other guests. There is a couple sitting behind me, both dressed in jeans and a sweatshirt and another couple and their daughter are sitting to my left. They are discussing the Island. As I eavesdrop on their conversation, I learn that the one couple owns a cottage on the Island and have been frequent visitors for the past twenty years. One of their sons now reside on the Island and has a baby. The other couple are visiting for their first time. The talk changes to the menu.

"Lawyer, Burbot, Eil Pout. Indians call it Mesei. Kind of like a fish. Water Cod. Islanders named it lawyers because the location of its guilty heart - is in its gluteus max!" Served fresh daily. The couples start discussing the lawyer sandwich and how wonderfully delicious and fresh it is. The owner himself fishes for them daily. Sounds good to me, so when the waitress returns I ordered one only to find

out they were all sold out. The other table had ordered the last order.

Talk between the couples changes back to the beauty of the Island. The one couple offers suggestions to the first time visitors on attractions not to miss. The guest grateful for the information missed the great pride and ownership the part-time residents took in this Island, stating that this is the closest to New England you can get, without actually being there. They continue to push the attractions, serenity, and the beauty of the Island all throughout their meals. I began to wonder, were they trying to sell the newcomers on the Island or were they actually trying to sell themselves?

I left the restaurant and the Island without the answer to my question. What really attracts visitors from so far away to this tiny little Island?

Lori Kulju

A WINDSHIELD SURVEY

It is early November as I drive along a town road on Washington Island. The sky is gray today and the last of the brittle leaves are floating down from the trees. I cannot actually see water in any direction, but knowing that I am on an island is a strange sensation for me; it is as if I am moving around a finite space much like a piece on a Monopoly board.

Having passed the island store and local eating and drinking establishments, I have the road pretty much to myself, passing an occasional pickup truck with only the driver inside. The area is rural; the houses set back at least a hundred feet from the road; large yards with an outbuilding here or there. On the right, I see a natural stone fence surrounding a property. The fence is a visual boundary only, in that it does not look to be more than a foot high. The houses are mostly traditional, neat and well cared for. The many swing sets and jack-o'-lanterns left from Halloween tell me there are children in nearly every house, but they are still in school.

The atmosphere is exceptionally quiet and peaceful. One black cat ran across my path, a flock of sheep are quietly grazing in a field, and one or two birds fly

silently overhead. I noticed rounded bales of hay in the fields on either side of the road, but no cows.

I was a little concerned I may get lost and miss the last ferry back to the mainland, but the town is considerate of it's visitors, and I am having no problem following the signposts to where I want to go.

Three months ago, I realize, my impression may have been quite different as one of a hundred visitors on any given summer day. This day in November, though, Washington Island is peaceful and quiet, a typical rural community that happens to be surrounded by a timeless lapping of waves on it's shores.

--Paula Hobart

WINDSHIELD SURVEY

It is September 24, 1993 at 2:00 PM and the last auto has just been loaded onto the ferry boat. I am next in line. I quickly scrambled for my ferry schedule. Here it is and I discover the next ferry leaves at 3:00 PM. Perfect! The ferry attendant is waving me toward the edge of the pier. This is where I will conduct my windshield survey.

My immediate feeling was disappointment that I would arrive home later than I planned but this quickly passes and I am now grateful to be able to enjoy the natural beauty of the island for 30 minutes longer.

It is a beautiful fall day. The sun is shining and there are no clouds in the sky. The wind is gently blowing a fresh breeze across the island. The temperature is about 68 degrees F. A person could not ask for anything more wonderful.

While I sit in my car I watch the 2:30 PM ferry pull away from the dock. The ship is loaded with autos, buses, trucks, bikes, and pedestrians. I guess many of them are tourist. They stroll along the top of the ferry boat and look toward the island and back toward the mainland. I wonder to myself: What are they seeing? Why have they come to the island? What did they find here? What will they remember the most? Will they come back? Then I think, what is the attraction of an island to people. It must

be the romantic mystique written about in books.

As the ferry boat moves farther out to sea, I turn my attention to the peacefulness that I feel just sitting in my car. This is a welcome relief to the busy day I have had. To be able to sit and enjoy the fresh clean air, the sparkling clear waters of Lake Michigan, and feel the warm fall breeze is truly a unexplainable pleasure only to be found on the island. I wonder if I would enjoy this environment the rest of my life or do I really prefer the fast pace of a city with all its conveniences. Right now I would choose the island life.

I see a few more autos lining up behind me now. I notice no one is in a hurry. Some of the people are getting out of their autos and strolling along the pier holding hands, some are conversing with each other, and some just sit in silence dreaming. But everyone moves slowly absorbing every moment of the day. I recall an earlier conversation with an islander who stated, "My life used to be dictated by time, now it is dictated by the weather." This is so true as I watch the people on the pier. Now a couple on touring bicycles approach the soda machine on the dock. They leisurely select a soda and sit down on the pier to drink it. What a splendid way to spend the day.

My attention is drawn to the flag near the half empty harbor. It

whips graciously in the breeze. The sun sparkles on the water off the shore. A boaters dream. I begin to realize what makes this island so wonderful. It is its natural beauty, simple life style, and tranquil atmosphere. A trip to the island can be so fulfilling to a person's soul.

As I see the 3:00 PM ferry nearing the harbor I thank God a place like this exists. It is a refreshing experience, that I should do more often. It allows me to rediscover the wonders of nature and become peaceful again.

The 3:00 PM ferry has arrived. Its passengers unload in that peaceful unhurried manner. I see many of them smiling, talking, and waving to each other. This has to be good for you.

The ferry attendant waves me onto the boat he is laughing and joking with other attendants, good sign that he likes life on the island. What a nice way to leave this island, with treasured memories and a refreshed spirit. Thank-you.

Shelly Gruesen

Through my eyes I see.....

A UPS cart filled with boxes. A mail truck driving from the ferry. Cars with Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin license plates. The information booth is closed. There are several holders with pamphlets, sitting on the ledge of the booth. People walking up to the booth and taking the pamphlets. The booth is adorned with flowers of fall colors-oranges, yellows and golds. The red and white ferry boat rocking and bobbing in the water. A man in a yellow slicker walking from the dock. A man dressed in a plaid shirt, appearing oblivious to the wind. Two people walking to the ferry boat with suitcases and a box. Are they Islanders? A car backing onto the ferry. The American flag, on the dock, unfurled in the wind. Red brake lights on cars stopping, in line, for the ferry boat. Water, from the waves, splashing over the walls, onto the dock. The waves, higher, splashing over the wall, over a van parked on the edge of the dock. People standing on the top deck of the ferry boat, huddling in their jackets. Hair flying. I wonder if it is as cold as it looks. Another car backing onto the ferry boat. A man, in a yellow rain slicker, walking on the dock with a "walkie-talkie" wrapped in plastic. He paces the cement dock. Waves continue to splash onto the dock, leaving puddles of water. Young people running down the dock onto the ferry boat. They're laughing. The ferry boat's ramp going up. The ferry boat backs away from the dock, rocking in the water, bumping the waves.

Black smoke from the smoke stack on the boat. People on the
ferry boat waving to the dock. The man in the yellow rain
slicker watching the ferry boat leave. The ferry boat is gone.
The man in the yellow rain slicker walks away. The dock deserted
and desolate-quiet.

Ann Hanchek

Windshield Survey

It was mid-morning on October 4th.; the sky was blue, the air autumn crisp and the waters rough and adventurous. Two classmates and I boarded the ferry for the furthest point of Door County known as Washington Island. Although I have lived in Wisconsin most of my life I had never ventured onto the island. Excitement mounted as I was about to discover new territory.

During the forty minutes traveled on the ferry, we tried to determine why neighboring cars and their occupants were heading for the island. The car next to us was surely returning to the island with a new addition to their family while an elderly couple outfitted on mountain bikes were probably going to enjoy nature for the day.

After departing the ferry we headed for the Community Center, the "hubhub" of the island. The Community Center is a modern one story building. Housed in the Center are the offices of the family physician, dentist, optometrist, senior center, library, gym, and other activities as the community deems necessary and beneficial to the island.

While viewing the island from the Centers' front doors, I marveled at how a building so central to the needs of the island people could be located across from acres of open land and wooded

areas. The people of the island have kept the serenity of the land while developing modern buildings for schooling, social services, and public enjoyment.

The beauty of the island is an extension of the beauty found in Door County. My day of discovery was highlighted by the brilliant show of fall colors, wild pheasant near the roadways and silent tranquility of the gravel backroads.

There were no visible neighborhoods on the island but scattering of homes. Modern two story residences are located near older one story ranches. Although most of the homes are structurally maintained, their appearance is rustic due to lack of manicured landscape.

Washington Island does not have a downtown area or established business zone. This is one aspect of the island I do not appreciate. Most shops and businesses are located within a one to two mile radius from the Community Center. There are only a handful of businesses seen while traveling down Airport road, some with the same family name. There is nothing pretentious about the island buildings or its people. Commercial buildings are modestly decorated. Some buildings were boarded up in preparation for the winter months or possibly due to lack of revenue.

The islanders were friendly where ever we went but their faces always revealed a look of inquiry about our presence. No islander seemed in a hurry; it appeared that wherever they were at the moment was where they wanted to be. All the islanders seen were white and of varying ages.

Washington Island is a friendly, quiet community whose lifestyle appears simpler and more carefree than larger neighboring communities. I felt I was seeing an era of Americana past during my island visit and imagined that this is how Mayberry RFD would have been like if it had existed.

Laurie North

A "Taste" of Happiness

On October 4th, 1993 I had taken my first steps on Washington Island. It was cold, one of the coldest days of the year thus far (an early morning search for my winter coat was proof), and windy! After a literally rocky start to our trip, and a few initial interviews of people from the island, I found myself at one of the Island restaurants to collect information for my windshield survey.

One of the main perceptions that I had of the Island was that it was a tourism draw, and that I was a tourist. But no one made me feel like a tourist. Where was the shelf full of knick-knacks and postcards for sale? Very friendly people came and went over their lunch time. They talked to strangers and neighbors alike. The only difference was that I didn't know everyone's name. As I observed people conversing with each other and with me, I kept wondering... Tourism! What is it that they're selling? I had seen few shops and most of the places I had already been to had little or no memorabilia for sale.

With my last interactions in the restaurant, came an understanding that the people on the Island weren't necessarily trying to sell material things, they were there to provide proof that there is an alternative to the hustle bustle of city living. I can only imagine that a feeling of dependence is felt towards Mother Nature and the ferry

service at times, but this most assuredly is far outweighed by the independence experienced. I sensed that if I had been in a restaurant in a larger city, or one of similar size, only more urbanized, I would have come away with an entirely different feeling for priorities in life. One could not leave the Island without a feeling that the people on it, their families, and the community as a whole, have a very high degree of self-esteem and pride.

As I finished my food on that beautiful fall day on Washington Island, I felt I had not only tasted wonderful food, but that I had also received a taste of the happiness that is felt community wide.

Diane Lohff

If once you have slept on an island
You'll never be quite the same!
You may look as you looked the day before
And go by the same old name.

You may hustle about in street and shop,
You may sit at home and sew,
But you'll see blue water and wheeling gulls
Wherever your feet may go.

You may chat with the neighbors of this
and that

And close to your fire keep,
But you'll hear ship whistle and
lighthouse bell

And tides beat through your sleep.

Oh, you won't know why, and you can't
say when

Such change upon you came,
But . . . once you have slept on an island . . .
you'll never be quite the same!

