



The boathouse shown on the cover was built by Mark Sawyer, and the resort given the name Whido-Isle Beach Resort. How the name was chosen, no one is sure.

**WHIDO-ISLE BEACH RESORT
TO
SHANGRI-LA SHORES**



The Shangri-La Shores sign shown on the cover was hand-carved by my father, Jim Paulsen, in 1973 and donated to Shangri-La Shores. A couple of years ago, I completely restored it with the help of my son, Jim Paulsen, and some intricate painting by Stephanie "Devil Woman" Hucik. Complete restoration of the sign area, including new posts and a shake roof over the sign, were accomplished with the help of John Hucik, Jim Magnusson, and Dave Christensen.

A Tale of History



Art & Betty Paulsen

WHIDO-ISLE BEACH RESORT TO SHANGRI-LA SHORES

Every story has a beginning, and this one starts with a man named Mark. Mark Sowyer was a Navy man from Kansas, stationed at Oak Harbor. He liked the area so much that he decided to stay here after his retirement and buy property. He and his wife purchased the property here around 1946, naming it Whido-Isle Beach Resort.

The Sowyer's owned Whido-Isle for about 5 years. At the time of purchase, the only buildings on the place were the cottage at the far south end known as the "Eagles Nest," and the cottage which later became part of Trevor Roberts' present home.

Sowyer and a couple of his buddies from Kansas built the seven other cottages, the duplex, and the boathouse (See Appendix A). None of them were carpenters, and workmanship in some of the cottages was poor – salal, scraps of wood, and sawdust from cuttings was left under the cottages, for instance, and when Trevor Roberts later purchased the property, there was already a fair amount of deferred maintenance that needed to be done.

Trevor was 37 years old in September of 1951 when he and his wife, Harriet, and their partners, Harold and Ann Hammersburg, bought Whido-Isle. The purchase price was \$75,000. Harold and Trevor were neighbors in Blue Ridge, in North Seattle. Trevor and Harold's first project was construction of a cistern by the old pump house. They did this work with a little old cement mixer.

The Roberts-Hammersburg partnership split up after a year, at which time Trevor bought Harold out. Trevor continued to be here full time, and Harriett



Harriet & Trevor Roberts

came out with the kids (Sandy and Ron) on the weekends and summer until the family moved here permanently in 1953. Sandy was 12 years old at that time, and his brother, Ron, was 8.

Trevor and Harriet ran the place as a resort full time until 1961, and part-time until 1963 during the early development of Shangri-La Shores. There were ten vacation-type rentals, including the duplex. The cottages rented for between

\$10 and \$12 per night; what is now Carol Ann Mitchell's house, which had an upstairs, rented for \$15 per night; the duplex behind Trevor's house rented for \$10 per night for each unit.

Although the resort was open year-round, peak occupancy time was from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The boathouse was a busy place during the summer, with boats, fishing poles and tackle for rent. There were five – 14-foot boats renting for \$3 per day, and \$3.50 for an outboard motor; five – 16-footers with Wisconsin 3 ½ h.p. inboard motors, renting for \$6.00 per day; and two rowboats renting for \$1.50 per day. Fishing poles with tackle were \$1.50 and nets rented for 50 cents each.

The store in the boathouse offered sandwiches, pop, ice cream bars and candy. The grocery section was stocked with meat and a variety of canned goods. Most items were purchased at Lee's Grocery in Everett. At one point, it became one of Sandy's jobs to go to Lee's to get supplies and candy, such as Tootsie Rolls, licorice, and malt balls. The price for candy was eighty cents for 120 count,



Trevor and Harriet with grandsons Jay & Jon Roberts

and the mark-up at the resort store was 50%; however, Trevor says that Sandy ate the mark-up on the candy, so there was no profit on the candy sales!

Little kids would come to the Roberts' home at dinnertime with 5 cents to spend. Sandy's job was to go down and

unlock the store and wait on these kids with their nickel to spend, and of course, they could not decide what to buy. Sandy remembers being anxious to return to the house to eat his dinner.

There was a chicken coop south of Trevor's garage and shop. There were actually chickens in the coop for a time. One of the most famous guests of the chicken coop was an eagle who had been rescued from the water by Trevor and his boys. They saw an eagle floating towards the dock during a fast tide and could tell the eagle was motionless and was going to crash into the dock. Trevor took a towel and rescued the eagle from the water and carried it up to the chicken coop, where they supplied it with food and fresh water. It stayed there the entire day, pretty much motionless, and throughout the night. The next morning, Trevor went down to the boathouse to put out a couple of rental boats. On his way back from the boathouse, an eagle flew overhead and swooped down right in front of Trevor. Upon checking the chicken coop, Trevor discovered that the eagle was gone. He then realized without any doubt, that the eagle had been expressing his thanks for the

rescue in a very regal manner, the only way he could.

The chicken coop was later converted into a ping pong room, which was very popular with the kids. Sandy maintains to this day that he was one of the better ping pong players in the area. This has never been substantiated.

At a later date during the development of Shangri-La Shores, the property line between Division I and II went through the chicken coop, and it was removed from the property at that time.

There were originally six "free-floating" floats, about 30 feet long, built by Trevor and the boys. All of the logs came from the beach. The floats were chained and anchored in a way that the floats could be allowed to swing with prevailing tide and wind conditions. Trevor would take the floats to Race Lagoon in the winter for protection, and several were lost one year when a high tide took them too high on the shore to retrieve.

It was tough making a living on the Whido-Isle resort rental proceeds, and to pay the underlying mortgage payments. Friends of the Roberts', Pat & Irene Wannamaker, who owned a nearby pig farm, helped by taking phone reservation information and passing it along to the Roberts', as there were no telephones to Whido-Isle. The Wannamaker's phone number was listed on the Whido-Isle brochure.

Also helping out was a local postman who would bring the name and phone number on a penny postcard from the Wannamaker's to the Robert's, (the first example ever of direct mail) or the Wannamaker's would drive over in their car and give the information to the Roberts. (Pat Wannamaker later became a state senator.)

With the primary season for Whido-Isle Resort being Memorial Day to Labor Day, and occasional weekends during the rest of the year, efforts were made to

gain other kinds of business. Several fraternities, sororities and private businesses used the resort during the off-season, which helped contribute to operating expenses at that time. One company brought their employees from all over the country and occupied all of the cottages at one time. Dinner was served every night in the lodge area of Trevor's house, and since it was winter, it was already dark by 5 p.m. One of the gentlemen went outside every night at Trevor's, and fired a shotgun into the air, signaling for the rest of the men to come to dinner. One afternoon Trevor found a dead duck on the beach, and knowing the occurrence of the shotgun shooting every evening, climbed on the roof of his house and waited approximately five seconds after the shotgun was fired, and threw the dead duck down near the feet of the shooter. To this day, that gentleman is still telling the story of his magnificent shot that brought down a duck at Whido-Isle Resort.

The whole place had been logged 2-3 years before Trevor & Harriet bought

Whido-Isle, and the logging job was not very well done. Many good logs were left lying on the ground, and an equal number left standing. A logger friend of Trevor's named "Scrawny," offered to log the remaining timber, and due to his good job, helped to make a timber profit which was very welcomed to help meet underlying operating expenses of Whido-Isle.



Trevor built the first 6-8 pilings on the dock by himself. The rest of the dock was built after the Shangri-La Shores subdivision was formed. Trevor hand-dug the holes for the pilings and cased the holes with reduced shiplap squares. He also did all the rock walls around the playfield and boathouse area. He worked long days... Trevor also built the boat launch with the same little cement mixer that he used for many projects throughout the resort.

Trevor built the wooden ramp from the dock down to the float. Trevor says in later days, "I would look at the ramp from the dock to the float, and think, 'I put that damn thing up myself. I don't know how I did it, but I did.'"

When John Hucik and his friend, Chuck Maddox, replaced the old wooden ramp from the dock to the float with the present day aluminum ramp, John said when the final bolt was cut, "the thing just stayed there, and would not fall into

the water." It was some kind of a construction job done by Trevor in those early days.

There were no telephone lines from present-day Highway 20 to Whido-Isle Resort. The estimated cost from the phone company to install phones in Shangri-La Shores was about \$6,000, a prohibitive amount at the time. The Roberts decided to take on the challenge themselves. They contacted the telephone company and got information on the size of the poles needed and how far apart they should be. Sandy and Ron would climb trees with a pre-determined length of string to select those trees that met the required circumference at both the bottom and the top of the tree. The poles had to be 30 feet in length, and it was a mile and a half from the highway to Whido-Isle. Along with the help of a hired man, they hand-dug all the holes and drug the poles with an old dump truck to the hole sites, and the telephone company later came along and planted the poles and strung the wire. It was quite a job!

THE BIRTH OF SHANGRI-LA SHORES

One day Bud Wagner of Pope & Talbot approached Trevor with the idea of subdividing the property, saying it would make a beautiful development. After some discussion, Trevor and Harriet decided to accept P&T's offer to develop the property. P&T proposed to put up all the development costs, and the Roberts would put up the property. The Roberts family felt the offer of disbursement of funds received from the sale was a very fair offer and equitable to both sides. (Real estate was about 1% of Pope & Talbot's business at that time, shipping was 30%, and lumber was about 60%. This was the first property subdivision ever done by Pope & Talbot that was not owned by them.)

Bud asked Trevor and Harriet for a name for the subdivision. They talked and decided to name the new subdivision Shangri-La Shores because this was their



“Shangri-La.” Bud called on a Saturday morning and asked if they had come up with a name. When told it was “Shangri-La Shores” there was dead silence on Bud's part for approximately ten to fifteen seconds, and then he responded, “Have you thought of anything else?” The funny thing was, later on when the next subdivision was formed to the north of Shangri-La Shores, Bud called Trevor and wanted to name it “Shangri-La Shores II.” Trevor replied politely but firmly, “Hell, no.”

The decision to subdivide proved to be a good one, as lots sold fairly quickly. Cottages were a little slower to sell, and

Trevor and Harriet continued to rent cottages and run the resort in the meantime. Cottages 2 through 6 sold for \$10,000 each, with cottage #1 (the Needle Shed) selling for \$12,000, as it was closer to the playground.

The first house was built by Chet and Mabel Nielsen at 514 Pullman Road. Nielsen's bought two lots at their initial purchase, and later built their second and permanent home at 759 Arbor Drive, which is Steve Sechrist's present home. See Appendix B.

The Nielsen's would come out every weekend, and Chet would bang on Trevor's back door and sit down and visit for about a half hour, and then get up and say, "Well, Mabel should have the place heated up by now," and he would leave.

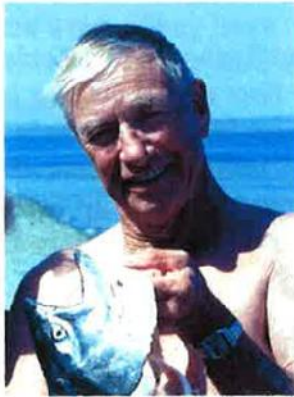
The next houses were built by Oberg's, Hucik's, McGuire's, and Holt's, and there doesn't seem to be a consensus as to which order.

When Shangri-La was first subdivided, it was understood the property was comprised of about 55 acres on this side of what is now Race Road. After Sandy Roberts started in the real estate business (the summer of 1963), he was doing research on the property here and determined that Trevor owned 160 acres all together, with 55 being in the Shangri-La Shores Subdivision. That left over 100 acres across what is now Race Road, which Sandy plotted off into mostly 5-acre plats.

Harriet passed away in 1978, and Trevor has continued to live here at Shangri-La Shores in his lovely home next to the boathouse. Trevor is well known for his shell collection, which hopefully someday will be in a place where thousands of people will be able to share it. What a lot of folks don't

know is what an incredible salmon fisherman Trevor was in his earlier days. Many, many stories could be told of Trevor's fishing exploits, but there is not enough room for them in this little endeavor.

Trevor turned 90 years old this year, and several large, well-attended parties were held to honor him.



Sandy Roberts initially started in the real estate business when he came home from WSU in the winter of 1962. Sandy eventually opened an office in Coupeville in 1966 in what is now Miriam's Espresso, later moving several doors over to the present Windermere location. He is now retired from that business and lives with wife, Susan, whom he met his third year at Skagit Valley College. He says if he had not been such a good pinochle player and water-skier, he would have finished Skagit in 2 years, and he would never have met Susan.

Sandy and Susan were married in 1963, and their first residence was in one of the duplexes behind Trevor's house. In 1964, they built their home directly behind the duplex going up the hill. That house is currently owned by Leola

Jones. Their two boys, Jon and Jay, grew up right here in Shangri-La Shores, until 1990, when Sandy and Sue built their new home on the west side of Whidbey Island, where they presently live and enjoy spending time with their family, which now includes five grandchildren (all girls).

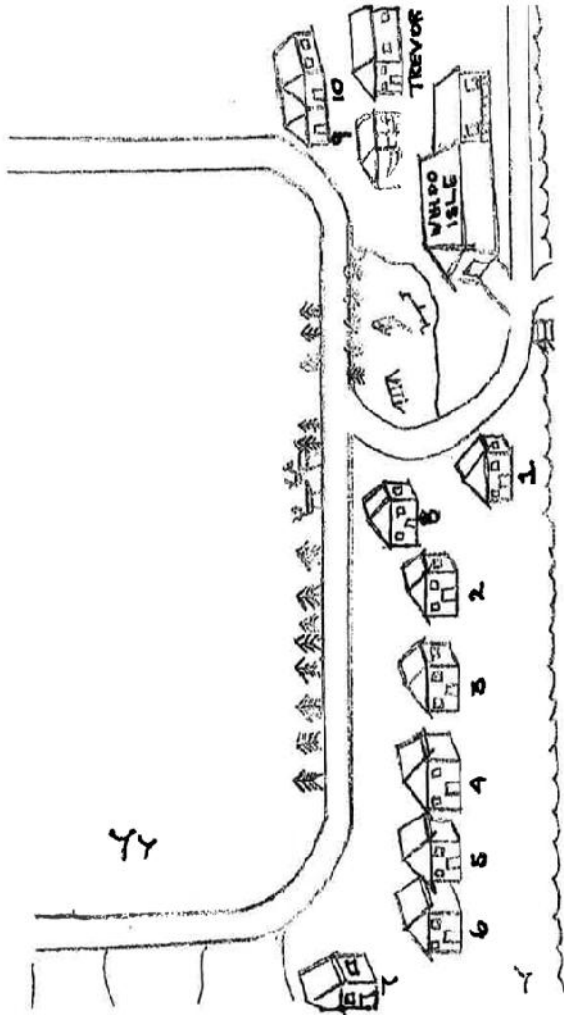
Ron Roberts attended WSU and served a tour in the Marine Corps. He is now retired from the Boeing Corporation. He and his wife, Chris, live in the Issaquah area. They have two boys, Michael and Brent, and one daughter, Kathleen.

**APPENDIX A
CURRENT OWNERS OF
THE ORIGINAL COTTAGE SITES**

No. 1	Mary Tognazzini
No. 2	Carol Green and Lois Craig
No. 3	Judy Meyer
No. 4	Dave Christensen & Igene Engell
No. 5	James & Cheri Rudolph
No. 6	David Gracey
No. 7	William & Polly Van Valin
No. 8	Carol Ann Mitchell
No. 9 & 10 (duplex Converted to Single residence)	Perry Krallis

Drawing of original Shangri-La Shores by Jim Paulsen.

APPENDIX A



APPENDIX B



First Shangri-La Home (original owners: Nielsen's)



Oberg's House



Holt's House



Ed & Marge Hucik's Home

APPENDIX B

Author's Notes

My personal involvement with the Roberts' family started in 1965 when Judy and I bought our first lot at Shangri-La Shores for \$250 down and \$25 a month. I was only two years out of college, and that was a big expense for us at that time. The day I followed the signs to Shangri-La Shores, I met a very courteous, articulate, what I thought, "older" gentleman, named Trevor Roberts. He told me his son, Sandy, usually handled the sales, but he was off golfing or doing something. Had I had an ounce of sense at the time, right then and there, I would have given up my fledgling career as an educator, and become a realtor.

I just recently came to the realization that the "older gentleman" I met that day, was fourteen years younger at that time than I currently am today.

I have wanted to do something like this for a long time, as I have never truly known the sequence of how all this came to be. I do know that Shangri-La Shores has brought many pleasant and happy times to my life, and memories that will always be with me. Most all of the folks that were here at that time when I purchased in 1965 have now passed on, but for those few of us who still remember those times, their names come up quite often in conversation.

Acknowledgments

TREVOR ROBERTS

I'd like to thank Trevor Roberts for spending time with me in gaining a lot of information contained in this little booklet. I'd also like to thank him for leaving the legacy of Shangri-La Shores that has impacted so many lives.

SANDY ROBERTS

Sandy was of equal help to me in the creation of this little booklet, both in remembering things that Trevor did not, or helping in collaboration with some of Trevor's memories. I would also like to thank both Sandy and Susan for being such incredible friends this almost forty years, and for sharing many wonderful times here in Shangri-La Shores, on boating trips, and in Maui.

BETTY PAULSEN

Certainly last, but not least, I want to thank my lovely wife, Betty, for all of her hard work in the creation of this little epistle. She put in many long hours on the computer setting up and formatting the layout of this endeavor. I will always appreciate her help and support in creating this little project.

Art Paulsen