Newspapers.com by Ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/501357435



Downloaded on Jan 5, 2024



Artists' paradise

# Jordan River an enchanting place

Pleasant-looking Sooke is progressive community.

By DONALD STAINSBY

Jordan River is where the breakers start rolling in from the open Pacific. It's at the end of the paved road leading west from Victoria, where the Vancouver Island mountains begin to curve north again. It lies about halfway between Sooke and Port Renfrew and for some inexplicable reason it's marked on the maps as River Jordan.

The drive to Jordan River from Victoria is one of varying beauty. One can go directly, but it's more fun to swing down across Lagoon Drive with the Strait of Juan de Fuca on one side of the roadwide lot of land and Royal Roads services college on the distant inland side of Esquimalt Lagoon.

From the Lagoon, roads wander through the undulating farming country of Metchosin, and if you're the sort who likes a twisting, rather coaster dirt road in good condition, then head in through Becher Bay Indian reserve. The road to East Sooke is equally gay, but it's a dead end.

## Sea and hills

But whether by highway or side road, the route to Jordan River passes through Sooke, a farming and fishing community whose harbour just cries for bevies of painters to catch the beauties of fish boats and wharves, sea and hills.

It was at Sooke that Capt. Walter Calquhoun Grant became the first independent settler on Vancouver Island. In 1849, and the next year established the second sawmill in what is now British Columbia.

They tell you along the southern coast of the Island that Sooke is the town that is growing, as loggers settle their families there and work out in the woods of the area. It is a pleasant looking, progressive little community.

Beyond Sooke, the countryside rapidly thins out, the road narrows, chiefly through the woods with occasional striking views of the strait. It winds by Gordon's Beach, where the little fishing boats of Victorians dot the shore, and continues out past Point No Point onset to Jordan River.

## Around a corner

Jordan River comes as something of a surprise. The road sweeps around a corner and down a long hill to sea level where, in a flat pocket surrounded by the hills, the bright little community spreads itself.

It is a thoroughly enchanting view. The breakers, smallish ones admittedly but real breakers, nevertheless, crash past Cape Flattery off in the distance and roll in with quiet thunder. The houses, all well kept and bright, are scattered about without formality.

Across the wooden bridge (basic but safe enough) over the river lies the hotel and a store and coffee shop.

Does tension cause churning stomach?

Fast-paced living, plus irregular meals or too much smoking or drinking, can often lead to stomach discomfort. But with TUMS you get relief, fast! Just eat a couple of these mild, minty tablets . . . they go to work immediately to relieve acid indigestion, sour stomach! Keep a roll of TUMS handy—ready to relieve stomach pain, "heartburn" or gas condition and chase away after-taste. TUMS cost so little too!

TUMS for the tummy

*This is one of a series on towns in B.C. which reflects upon the past, takes a look at the present and says venture at the future.*

TOWNS OF B.C.

Beyond there the pavement ends and a sign declares "Public road closed to public" — and in fine print lists the hours when the unpaved road to Port Renfrew is reserved for the huge logging trucks.

Jordan River is basically a company town. The Canadian Puget Sound Co., now a subsidiary of Bayonne Canada, owns most of the land and most of the houses. The B.C. Electric owns much of what is left.

The two companies comprise most of Jordan River's story.

The community was named after the Jordan family who came to the area from England in 1862. Their son, Joseph Edwin Jordan, died only last May in Colwood Hill hospital at the age of 78.

## Once isolated

For a time Jordan River was an isolated coastal logging camp with bunkhouses and cookhouse, and a round house for the locomotives of the logging railroad. They have all gone now, the cookhouse and bunkhouses being the last to go, in 1954.

The company now owns 30 houses, rents them chiefly to its own employees, though there little of its crews live elsewhere and come in by car or boat to work.

It came to 1957 that the B.C. Electric first operated upon the scene, forney crews came in and set up a base camp at the mouth of the river. They were served by tug from Victoria while they laid the groundwork for the Jordan River power plant which came into production in 1961.

"Twenty-four thousand kilowatts of power are now produced from four units at the Jordan River power house, the water flowing through a 5½-mile open flume from the diversion dam before it enters the 5,100-foot penstocks to drop to the turbines.

Superintendent of the power plant is George Glover, who has been at Jordan River for 17 years now. He recalls that it took two hours or more to cover the 43 miles to Victoria when he first arrived.

It's a friendly community, he feels, which has picked up in appearance considerably since the war.

## Copper mill

An army camp yet, a number of buildings behind which have been converted into the community hall (it doubles as a church on Sundays), the school and a store. A row of houses which lined the waterfront has gone and been replaced on the inland side of the road by duplexes financed over from Bremerton, Wash.

There is one other industrial aspect to Jordan River, hidden in the hills behind the town. A body of copper ore has intrigued a number of companies through the years but nothing has ever come of it.

Now, however, the Cowichan Copper company is developing it and putting a mill in underground. The concentrates will be shipped to Japan. It won't, however, mean very much to Jordan River.

"Most of the mine men will always commute from Sooke," Glover says. "Between the logging company and the B.C. Electric there just isn't the land here to build a house on."

One of the few pieces of private land is held by H. W. Dolling across the river where he runs the Breakers Cafe with his son-in-law R. G. Soames.

His acquisition of the business recently was the successful completion of a dream of some years of moving to Jordan River.

"It's beautiful here in the summer," he says, "absolutely beautiful."

A lot of tourists pass through in the summer, though there isn't much to hold them.

"Some try to fish," Dolling says, "but it isn't much good. The breakers make it too rough. The sand on the bar changes completely every two or three years. It's too rough to get a wharf in here."

## Adventure drive

A growing number of tourists continue on past Jordan River, when the restricted road is open, to Port Renfrew, and from there loop back to Victoria on another restricted road past Shawnigan Lake — one of the "adventure drives" listed on the government tourist map.

In the winter, his trade is chiefly local, crews dropping in for lunch. Dolling finds plenty of time to talk with people who stop for coffee, people like Clarstone Pratt, who has the mail contract and tries to avoid using his "good Liberal first name."

When the company isn't logging (it works on a tree farm basis now) personnel manager Jim Hunter has a little time to talk, and reflect on his 14 years in Jordan River.

"I can't imagine living anywhere else," he said, looking across the street at the school where the younger children of the community's 55 families were at play. (The older children go by bus to high school at Sooke).

"There are things we haven't got here," he admits. "We haven't got hoodlums and we haven't got dancing lessons for the children.

"But there are other things much more important for the children," he went on. "They can survive without dancing lessons."

INTRODUCING Celebrity Hearing Glasses by MAICO
• New Hi Fi Clarity
• New Exciting Designs
• New Big X advantages
get FREE BOOKLET—write
Maico Hearing Service Ltd.
789 Granville St.
MU 3-5328
Certified Hearing Aid Audiologists
SEND FREE BOOKLET
NAME
ADDRESS

Secure your place in the sun...

...save on Income Tax!
OPEN A CANADA TRUST RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN
Now is the time to make your future secure financially. With your own individual retirement plan you can save on Income Tax (within the limits of the Income Tax Act) while you provide for the future. Deposit what you like when you like. You may choose either or both Equity or Fixed Income Plans. Full details on request.
Huron & Erie-Canada Trust
MODERN OFFICES COAST TO COAST
J. D. WILSON, Assistant General Manager
536 Howe St., Vancouver 622 Sixth St., New Westminster
C. H. O'HARA, Manager M. H. MOORE, Manager
HOURS: Monday to Thursday, 9.30 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. Friday, 9.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

SAFEWAY
Check and Compare Your Premiums at Safeway
Quality-Cash Savings
Sugar B.C. No. 1 Granulated (with $5.00 Purchase or over) 10 lb. bag 59c
Ice Cream Snow Star Assorted Flavors 3 pt. ctn. 39c
Green Peas Aylmer Fancy, Frozen, 2-lb. cello 2 for 75c
Marmalade Empress Pure Seville Orange . . . 4 lb. tin 59c
Pork and Beans Rainbow, 15-oz. tin 4 for 35c
Large Eggs Breakfast Gems, Farm Fresh, . . . . . Grade A Doz. 38c
No. 1 Quality Bananas For school lunches, cakes, pies or serve sliced on cereal 8 lbs. 89c
Fresh Tomatoes California, red-ripe . . . . lb. 19c
Safeway Superb Standing Rib Roast Beef Government Inspected and Graded Safeway trimmed to save you money, Canada Choice, Canada Good . . . . . lb. 69c
Beef Round Steak Roast Canada Choice, Canada Good . . . . lb. 69c
Leg of Lamb New Zealand Canterbury, Whole or Half . . . . . lb. 37c
SAFEWAY CANADA SAFEWAY LIMITED
Prices Effective Feb. 9 and 10
We reserve the right to Limit Quantities

Copyright © 2024 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.
Powered by Newspapers.com