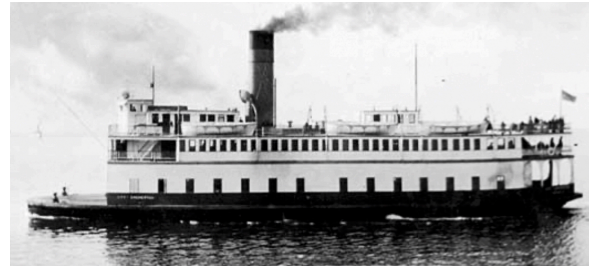


Getting around Kitsap, the early years.



City of Bremerton

If you are like me you often find yourself complaining about the poor shape of our current highway infrastructure, the lumpy Silverdale repavement, the endless pot holes and some of our more recent engineering marvels. Suffice to say we have become relatively spoiled compared to the folks who really had to work, to get around Kitsap County, at the turn of the century (the 1900 one, by 2000 we had things pretty well in hand). Bremerton of 1903 was noted for having 16 Saloons and 1200 people, sounds like it was quite a fun little place.

An interesting fact, Kitsap County is only about 3.5 miles away from being an Island (just thought I would throw that in, thanks to the Kitsap Historical Society for that little nugget). At the turn of the Century you may have thought we were an island. The state of our roadway infrastructure was so bad that the majority of transportation was conducted on the water. Almost every little community had its own dock and what was known as the Mosquito Fleet in conjunction with a number of Ferry operators kept folks moving. In 1915 the first car ferry began operating and it was said that it was capable of handling up to 7 Fords.

Early land transportation consisted of a fleet of 15 or so open touring cars (the fair was 25 cents) that operated until 1921 when the Bremerton Charleston Transportation company began operating busses.

Prior to 1930 if you were in West Bremerton and wanted to go to Manette you either took the ferry to Enetai (a small community which you would now know as part Manette). If you could not make the boat then you had a 16 mile drive through Silverdale and Traceyton via some very primitive roads. A busy Shipyard and an expanding population prompted local officials to push for a bridge connecting Bremerton to Manette. This did not happen over night since the permit was issued in 1926 and construction did not begin until 1929. Stocks were sold to finance the construction of the bridge and a toll helped with the finances until the toll was removed in 1939.

Other milestone bridges would be the Agate Pass Bridge in 1950, the Warren Avenue Bridge in 1958 and the Hood Canal Bridge in 1961.



Early Manette Bridge

So complain as we will, the bottom line is, that getting there from here is now pretty much a sure thing!

JB

Thanks to
Kitsap County Historical Society and their Book **Kitsap County a History** (see Bonnie if you want a copy).
Numerous internet historical articles.