



Henry M. Jackson Centennial



The Henry M. Jackson Overlook wayside exhibit is positioned on the south slope of Mount Finlayson at the American Camp unit of San Juan Island National Historical Park. From this sweeping view above the Strait of Juan de Fuca four other national park units are visible: Olympic, Mount Rainier, Ebey's Landing, and North Cascades. These five represent an American legacy of preserving and protecting landscapes and historic places for the enjoyment and benefit of people. From mountain peak to seashore, from glacier to desert, and from Liberty Bell to battlefield, national park sites are uniquely an American idea.

Henry M. Jackson: Co-founder of San Juan Island NHP

May 31, 2012 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Senator Henry M. Jackson, who throughout his career was a champion for the preservation of public lands, including San Juan Island National Historical Park. It was Jackson and his long-time U.S. Senate cohort, Warren G. Magnuson, who created legislation to preserve the sites of the San Juan Boundary Dispute, or “Pig War,” where Great Britain and the United States chose peace over war. Signed into law in September 1966 by President Lyndon B. Johnson, the park today encompasses 2,064 acres that not only provide numerous opportunities for recreation, but symbolizes that individuals and nations can sometimes resolve their differences peacefully without resorting to violence.

A Legacy of Preservation of Public Lands

In a public life spanning 45 years, including enlisted service during World War II, “Scoop” Jackson was recognized by his colleagues and constituents alike for his own special genius – boundless energy and endless patience, the intellectual grasp of a world citizen, and a burning love for his country and his people.

From 1963 to 1980, Jackson served as chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and its predecessor, the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. In this capacity, he played a leading role in the conservation legislation of the 1960s and the energy legislation of the 1970s.

As an “environmentalist” long before the term was fashionable, Jackson authored the landmark National Environmental Policy Act and sponsored legislation to preserve parklands and



Henry M. Jackson (far right) attended a public hearing in 1965 on San Juan Island to take testimony on the park bill from San Juan Islanders. Standing at rear are Rhoda Crook Anderson and Jim Crook.

wilderness areas throughout the United States, including North Cascades and Olympic national parks—both visible from the park overlook that bears his name (above)—and the Alpine Lakes Wilderness in Washington state. He also authored the Alaska and Hawaii Statehood Acts.



In 1972, Senator Jackson, his wife Helen, son Peter, daughter Anna and extended family visited San Juan Island National Historical Park to see the results of Jackson's legislation. The park was still in the development period as the early stages of English Camp's formal garden (at left) attest.

Commitment To A Legacy Of Peace

Throughout his life, Senator Jackson was taken with the natural beauty of San Juan Island and the legacy of a "war" in which the only casualty was a pig. The Everett native graduated from the University of Washington, where he also received his law degree in 1935. After service as a prosecuting attorney he was in 1940 elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for Washington's Second District, which includes the San Juan archipelago. He moved onto the Senate in 1952. From that time on he was deeply involved in the major issues of American political life, but the San Juans were never far from his mind.

From 1951 to 1963, Washington State's Parks and Recreation Commission had been involved in acquiring portions of American and English camps. During

this same period, Senators Jackson and Magnuson were promoting recognition of the sites as a national monument within the National Park Service.

In 1958, they introduced Senate Bill 3969. Later incarnations of the bill were introduced: SB. 1441 in 1964 and in January 1965, SB. 489. In the House, Washington Representative Lloyd Meeds, who held Jackson's former second District seat, introduced an identical measure in 1965, HR. 2623. The bills were all approved for submission to the Committee of Interior and Insular Affairs.

In September 1965, Jackson, Magnuson and Meeds, along with U.S. Senators Alan Bible of Nevada, Senator Len Jordan from Idaho, arrived in Friday Harbor to take public testimony.

"In These Troublesome Times..."

While Jackson was legislating for a national historical park built on a premise of peace, the United States was mired in the Cold War with the Soviet Union and stepping up its involvement in Vietnam. Jackson alluded to these in his opening remarks at the Friday Harbor hearing:

In these troublesome times, it is well to remember—not only for us but for generations that follow us—the importance of the relationship between the United States and the English-speaking peoples...The bill before us proposes a national historical park to commemorate an event that took place many years ago, from which we can learn much, and profit much, in the future. Certainly other nations can learn a great deal from the outcome of this affair which occurred here over a hundred years ago. I know people of this county

and of this State, who have taken such a keen interest in this proposed national historical park, will be able to take great pride for what they have done towards making the park authorization possible."

Nearly 50 years on, the nation has rarely been free from war, but the park endures as a tangible symbol of peace thanks largely to Jackson's vision.



Helen Jackson accepts a commemorative gift from former Pacific Northwest Region Director Charles Odegaard during the early-1990s dedication of the Jackson Overlook at American Camp.