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HERBERT J. NUNAN

The Alaska gold rush days of 1898--thousands of persons seeking their fortunes in the newly discovered Klondike gold fields--and one of the thousands was E. J. "Bert" Nunan, present proprietor of the Oasis, who recalls the exciting times of '98.

"I was at Dawson, where I mined for three years," Nunan said, "And contrary to the usual stories that are told of the Klondike rush, there was little confusion at Dawson, due mainly to the work of the Canadian Mounted Police. They knew the past history of every person who came to prospect, and as soon as a "bad man" crossed the line, he was told to keep moving."

Nunan was born at Oak Harbor in 1874 and was one of a family of 12 children. His parents were among the first settlers here. He attended school here and at Coupeville for a while before the family moved to Seattle. Steamboating was one of his first jobs and a work which he followed for several years before and after his experiences in Alaska. He and Mrs. Nunan were married at Seattle in 1902.

"Bert" was employed for three year by the American-Hawaiian Steamship Company at San Francisco and his work carried him as far south as Salina Cruz, Mexico, one of the hottest places on the map according to Nunan.

He served as Oak Harbor Postmaster for eight years, from 1914 to 1922, under the Wilson administration. In 1923 he bought the Oasis which he has operated since, although mining is the work he enjoys most.

"There's really no place like Oak Harbor," Nunan smiled. "Our family was born and raised here, scattered to all parts of the country, but sooner or later came back to the Puget Sound country."

Nunan enjoys hunting and sports. He is a member of B. P. O. E.

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