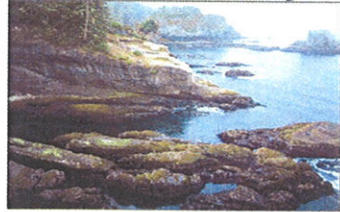# NAME ORIGINS

As happens in other parts of the world, place names have changed on the North Olympic Peninsula over the years. How these names are chosen can be as simple as naming the community after its founder. This sign explores the name origins of towns, landmarks, and other places along the Highway 112 corridor, now known as the Strait of Juan de Fuca National Scenic Byway. Before the settlers arrived, villages of the Klallams and Makahs dotted the shoreline. Fourteen Klallam villages were located between the Elwha and Hoko Rivers. Villages called "tkw áynəxw" in the Freshwater Bay area, "qqímu?" near Pillar Point, and "hú?qu?" by the Hoko River have disappeared. For more detailed information, visit the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribal Community Center, located west of Port Angeles. Website address is: www.elwha.org. The Makah had five permanent villages: Waatch, Sooes, Deah, Ozette, and Bahaada; with even more summer village sites. The fascinating history of the Makahs can be found at their renowned Makah Cultural and Research Center in Neah Bay. Website address is: www.makah.com.

Cape Flattery

Aboard the HMS Resolution, Captain James Cook (1778) wrote in his journal: "...there appeared to be a small opening which flattered us with the hope of finding a harbor... On this account I called the point of land to the North of it Cape Flattery."

Clallam Bay

The word is a derivative of Klallam or S'Klallam, the name of one of the local tribes. In their language, it means "strong people". The tribe consists of the Lower Elwha Klallam, Jamestown S'Klallam, and Port Gamble S'Klallam.

Slip Point

Captain Henry Kellett named the headland "Slip Point" because of a landslide visible from the water. Kellett eventually obtained the rank of Vice Admiral in the British Navy and became a knight in the Most Honorable Order of the Bath.

Pysht

Several different origins were found while researching this name. All are plausible, the one that appears to be the best explanation is a local Klallam word "pəsc't" meaning "against the wind or current" or "where the wind blows from all directions".

Crescent Bay

The perfect crescent shape of the bay is the reason Captain Henry Kellett named it such, in 1847. The town of Port Crescent was located on the bay and remained for about 50 years. On the east (right) side of the bay is the Salt Creek Recreation Area.

Striped Peak

Captain Kellett named this highpoint in 1847 due to a "landslip occurring down its face". The Department of Natural Resources manages the area for timber harvesting and recreation. Access to this site is from Freshwater Bay or Salt Creek Recreation Area.
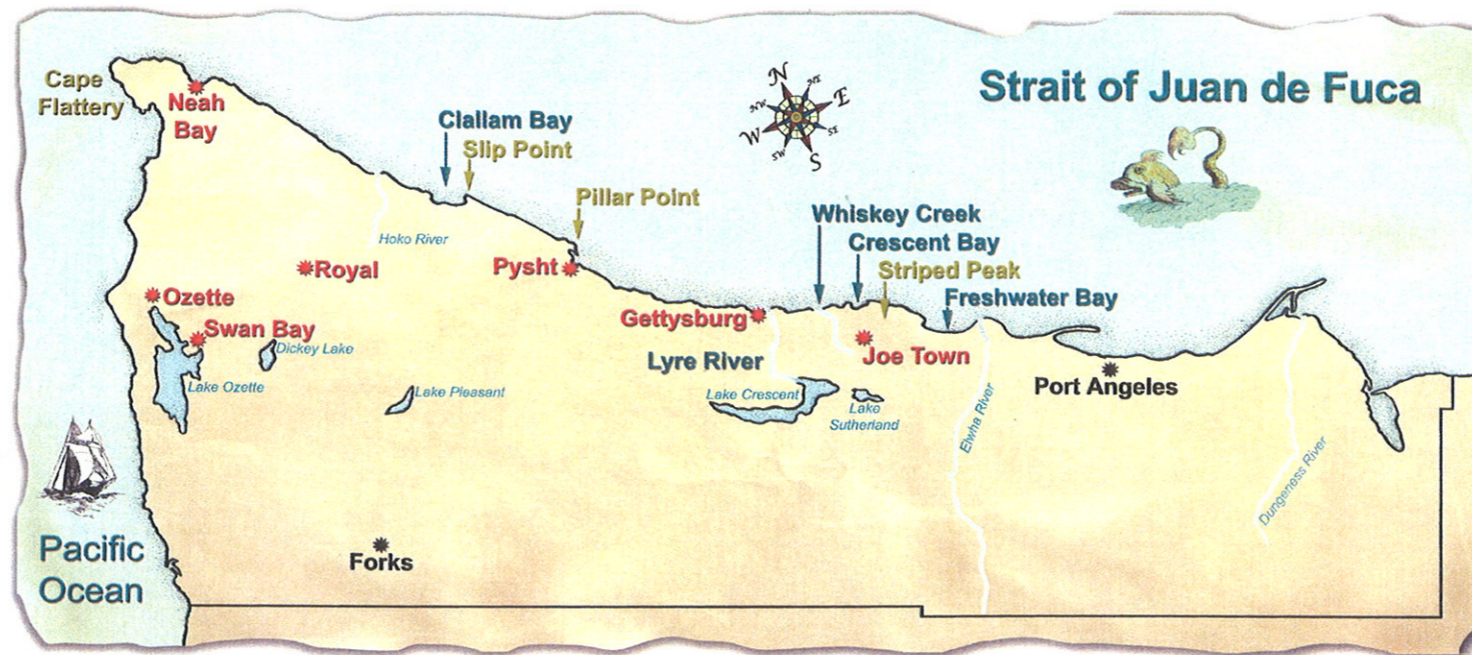
Neah Bay

This is the misunderstood or mis-spoken derivation of Dee-ah, Chief of the Makah at that location in 1846. There were several earlier names given to the area including Fort Nunez Gaona (Captain Quimper), Poverty Cove (American Traders), Scarborough Harbor (Captain Wilkes), and Neah Bay (Captain Kellett).

Ozette

The word is derived from the southernmost Makah settlement called "Ho-selth". The lake is the third largest in the state and is 331 feet at the deepest point. There are three islands on the lake, called Tivoli, Garden, and Baby.

Strait of Juan de Fuca

Cape Flattery · Neah Bay · Clallam Bay · Slip Point · Pillar Point · Whiskey Creek · Crescent Bay · Striped Peak · Freshwater Bay · Hoko River · Royal · Pysht · Gettysburg · Joe Town · Lyre River · Ozette · Swan Bay · Dickey Lake · Lake Ozette · Lake Pleasant · Lake Crescent · Lake Sutherland · Elwha River · Port Angeles · Dungeness River · Forks · Pacific Ocean

Freshwater Bay

In 1790, Spanish Captain Manuel Quimper Benitez del Pino stopped in this bay to replenish the ship's supply of fresh water. The name stuck and was written on British Admiralty charts in 1846 by Captain Kellett.

Joe Town

Joyce was once called Joe Town, the town was named after Joseph M. Joyce in 1913. The community now is host to the Joyce Depot Museum which houses a multitude of antique and historic materials from the area and the former city of Port Crescent.

Royal

Originally called Fagerly, this was too difficult for the Scandinavian settlers to pronounce. The locals gathered and voted to name their community Royal since there was a can of Royal Baking Powder on every kitchen shelf in the area.

Swan Bay

The area was named after James G. Swan (left), the first Indian agent in the area. He wrote the first ethnography of the Makah Tribe, among whom he lived. He is immortalized in the book "Winter Brothers, A Season at the Edge of America", by Ivan Doig.

Pillar Point

In 1846, Captain Henry Kellett named the landmark for the column-shaped rock at the tip of the point. Aboard the HMS Herald, Kellett named many features on both sides of the Strait.

Lyre River

In 1791, Spanish Captain Fransisco de Eliza named the river "Rio Cuesta". Cuesta means hill or slope in Spanish. Captain Henry Kellett renamed it the River Lyre in 1847. Eliza also named "Puerto de Nuestra Señora de Los Angeles" or Port Angeles.
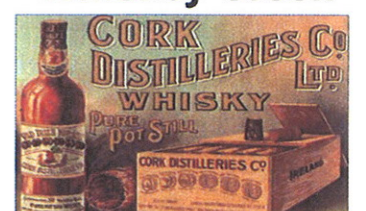
Gettysburg

This community was named after entrepreneur and lumberman Robert Getty in the late 1880s. There is no relation to tavern-keeper James Gettys, who founded the Civil War battlefield town in Pennsylvania in 1786.

Strait of Juan de Fuca

In 1592, Apostulos Valerianus, a Greek, working for the Viceroy of Mexico, explored the area. His Spanish crewmates called him Juan de Fuca. Based on the Greek's report, English Captain John Meares (1788) attached Valerianus' Spanish name to the Strait.

Whiskey Creek

Whiskey was delivered by steamer to Port Crescent, then hauled on foot to points west. Impatient loggers would meet the whiskey bearer at the creek, which was the halfway point of the trip. There, much of the load was consumed on the spot.