

Colvos Y

By Bruce Haulman and Terry Donnelly

The Colvos Y is actually the convergence of three different roads. What King County designates as Cedarhurst Road runs to the north (directly ahead in the photographs), Westside Highway comes in from the west (left in the photographs) to join Cedarhurst Road, and to the south (where the photographer is standing) 121st Avenue SW runs north from Cove Road to complete the Y.

Originally these roads had different names and the corners had names too. When all Vashon street names were standardized in the 1990s, the Westside Highway became the common designation for this entire stretch of road from the intersection with Vashon Highway at Jack's Corner (Where John L. Scott Realty is located) to the intersection at SW 220th near Lisabuela.

Residents in the 1920s and 1930s called the road running north from the Y The Colvos Road because it led to the Clovos Dock. Cedarhurst Road did not begin until about 2 miles to the north where the side road ran down to Colvos Dock. The road coming in from the west was called Cove Road, and 121st Avenue SW was called Krokset Road, after the Krokset family who lived there. The Y itself was called Lokke's Corner after the Lokke family who lived in the house on the left in both photographs.



Colvos Y @ 1930 – Vashon-Maury Island Heritage Museum

What King County now designates as Cedarhurst Road and early residents called Colvos Road was constructed in the early 1920s to connect Westside farms to the auto ferry to Seattle that opened at Vashon Heights in 1919. There were Mosquito Fleet steamer docks at Cove, Colvos and Cedarhurst, but the automobile spelled their doom. The early road was only one lane and was unpaved, but as automobiles became more prevalent, King County began to pave these roads in the 1930s and 1940s.

Once the Westside had been logged, farmers began to convert the land to agriculture and planted berries and fruit orchards, as well as built greenhouses and poultry barns. Largely from Scandinavia, these farmers (some of whom were the mythical bachelor Norwegian farmers of Lake Woebegone fame) also supplemented their income with fishing and building boats.

In the 1923 photograph, the land has been cleared for farming and farmhouses. The Colvos Store (the second building on the left built in 1923), and the Golgotha Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church (third building on the left built in 1909) can be clearly seen. A pasture, current field, and strawberry field are clearly visible on the right. Another orchard lies behind the farmhouse on the right. To the left open pastures and what is now Ober Road is clearly visible.



Colvos Y 2010 – Terry Donnelly

In the current photograph, the roads are in the same locations but have been significantly widened and paved. The first house on the left, The Lokke House, is still there, although significantly remodeled. Trees obscure the Colvos Store and Havurat Ee Shalom (the former Norwegian Lutheran Church). The house on the

right on the 1923 photograph is also obscured by trees, and the house visible in the 2009 photograph is located in the current field of the 1923 photograph.

Like much of Vashon-Maury Island, the Colvos Y reflects the shift from a largely agricultural economy to a largely commuter based economy. With this change, homes replaced farms, second growth forests replaced fields, and roads, renamed in the interest of conformity with the County road grid system, replaced the original road names.