

General Store circa 1908



Lee's General Store was the heart of Ucluelet during the early 1900s.

This historic building was built by Edwin "Ned" Lee and his wife Bessie to sell everything from pins to produce, drygoods to drugs, and fresh meat to fishing tackle. Ned started out as a fur trader and then became an importer and general merchant. He was also the postmaster and Justice of the Peace.

"Steamer days" were especially busy, when freight, supplies and mail were delivered by boat to the "Whiskey Dock" (the Government Wharf at the foot of Main Street). Goods were then trundled by wheelbarrow to the store.

All store items were kept behind a counter.

Customers would hand their list to the clerk who would then collect the various goods off the shelves for them. In the late 1950s the store was redesigned for self-serve shelves. Today you can still see remnants of the original glass counters, flooring, shelving and skylights.

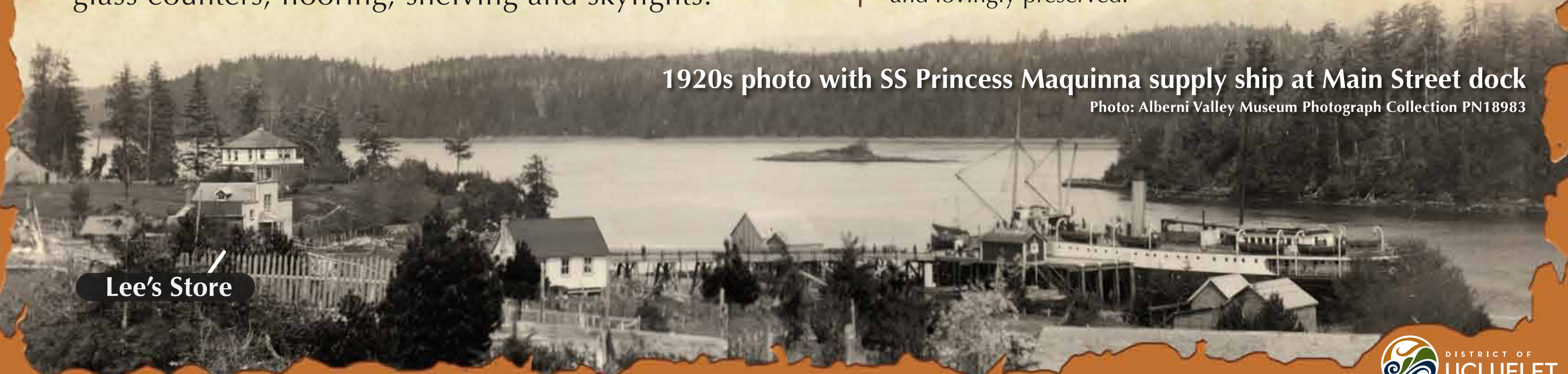


Photo: 1940s
Madden's Store

Vince Madden purchased the store in the early 1930s and changed the name to Madden's. In 1964, Don and Betty Hillier bought Madden's store. Margaret Thompson purchased the store in 1972. In 1988, this historic building was purchased by Jan Draeseke, who renamed it the Crow's Nest. It now houses Jan's gift and stationery store, but the historic ambience of the original general store has been respectfully and lovingly preserved.

1920s photo with SS Princess Maquinna supply ship at Main Street dock

Photo: Alberni Valley Museum Photograph Collection PN18983



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