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# **The Meager Township Of Hoquiam Evaluates The Past And Takes To The Water**

Communities unite when it comes to discussions about what was and what made them become what they are now. This is the same story with the small town of Hoquiam, Washington located near the mouth of the river that gave it its name in the lumber paradise of the Pacific Northwest. Reminiscences of deeds past that make the blood running through the locals' veins fill up with a sense of strength of character and respectful pride. The town can never be at fault for its relentless desire to pay homage to its colorful past.

All this respect and recognition for heritage and community must be preserved, this spirit of always knowing deep inside that you belong to something good and real not only for those who savor the fruits of their townsfolk's history but also for the future generations that would inevitably also call the place home. The past and the proud heritage of a community can never stay still and be forgotten with the passing of time, its people need to grow and change if it is to continue unperturbed with its love affair with life and the simple joys of having family and friends.

Interestingly, the community is no stranger when it comes to visitors; they get tons of them during the yearly events that the locals organize to celebrate their proud heritage. Loggers who harvested lumber from the rich surrounding forest first established town, this town's known around the world for this, and the townsfolk annually celebrate their logging history through the Loggers' Playday event that attracts thousand of visitors from all over the globe. It is in this manner that the people of this town make others aware how much they value their history and identity.

The people are not afraid of growth and change; it is in their nature to accept growth and the inevitable change that comes with it. What the town of Hoquiam wants and needs is a sort of personal confirmation that they are going to embrace development for their waterfront for all the right reasons. Yes, the economy is reason enough, even the chance to show up its bigger neighbor to the east, the town of Aberdeen the other end of a rich history of rivalry between two towns is also something to consider.

The potential for growth for the town is enormous. Change is something that should not be feared it should be welcomed and tamed to serve the wants and needs of the townspeople, it should serve as a means to protect and continually nurture what has been always important in the hearts and minds of those who call this town by the river mouth, and that something is pride.

Pride in the history of those who came before and what they have achieved for those who came later and pride for those who continue to develop themselves and their community to better honor the collective memories of all those individuals, family, friends and visitors who have called their Hoquiam home.

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