

OLIVE TREAT

For the ladies of old Van Anda the summer arrival of Mrs. Olive Treat with her wardrobe filled with the latest New York fashions was highly anticipated.

Would she be seen on the verandah of the hotel for Sunday afternoon promenades? Or, perhaps, at the Treats' newly-built "White House" on the hill (which replaced their original log "Honeymoon Cottage" at the head of the wharf)? Or, maybe Olive would appear at the community picnics she sponsored at Emily (Turtle) Lake near her rustic cabin?

Direct from their 17,000 square foot, 30-room mansion on Queen Anne Hill in Seattle, Mr. Harry Whitney Treat (manager of Van Anda Copper and Gold Company) and his lovely bride ("the Belle of New York") Olive Marion (Graef) Treat would make the annual trip to spend summers in Van Anda by the lake.

The young socialite Olive Graef was featured in the 1894 *Fair Women from Vogue* portrait collection of "some of the attractive women who adorn the social life of our foremost cities" (see photo). Daughter of champagne importer Charles Graef, Olive grew up amongst the Vanderbilts and Rockefellers of the US east coast elite.

In 1896 (age 27) Olive married the handsome, smooth-talking Chicago entrepreneur Harry Treat and embarked on their honeymoon by train. An accidental encounter en route with mining promoter Ed Blewett convinced the newlyweds to visit and invest in Blewett's Texada properties.

In 1898, while deer hunting with her husband, Vanny (Harry's pet name for Olive) spied a rock lodged in the upended roots of a large tree. This "rock" proved to be unusually rich in gold and copper. The Cornell Mine was born!

Vanny was quite adventurous and enjoyed exploring the mine shafts via rope bucket. She was an avid tennis player and an excellent horsewoman. In Seattle she sponsored lavish charity events and helped found the Childrens' Orthopedic Hospital.

She wrote of Texada: "It was a very wild spot ... but there is nothing for a woman to fear there ... I have many good friends among the inhabitants ... I like the life in my log cabin ... one must have a breathing spell occasionally." Olive died in Seattle on January 4, 1945.

Our street names Olive and Gracemere (after the Graef estate in Tarrytown, NY) survive as reminders of a gracious lady who greatly influenced Van Anda's early social life.

