



# HISTORIC ROCHE HARBOR

## A LOOK BACK IN TIME

*The origin of Roche Harbor began well over a century ago when vast deposits of pure gray Limestone were first burned for use in building and manufacturing. Local tradition dates the first makeshift operation at Roche Harbor in 1860 by British Soldiers.*

*Full-scale commercial lime operations began in earnest after the boundary resolution with Canada in 1872, culminating with the formation of the Roche Harbor Lime & Cement Co., Inc. in 1886 - still today Washington's oldest corporation on record. The quality reputation of Roche Harbor limestone is renown worldwide – carrying upwards of 99.63% purity. After a succession of ownership changes, the company was purchased by the Tacoma and Roche Harbor Lime Company and owner John S. McMillin for a tidy sum of \$40,000. McMillin aggressively developed the land and business to a peak of 800 employees, a 1929 pre-crash value of \$1.1 million and a vast domain over 4,000 acres and twelve miles of shoreline. As business boomed, occasional revelry would pepper the workaday routine. One high point was a visit by President Theodore Roosevelt on July 13, 1906, when after a midday salmon barbecue, Roosevelt signed the Guest Registry which still remains in our Hotel Lobby today.*

*In 1956, Roche Harbor was purchased by the late Reuben J. Tarte and his son Neil. In 1958, the Tarte family restored many historic sites, including the restaurant, which was once the home of John S. McMillin. Additional seating was added in 1964 and the gazebo and deck were completed in 1977. On March 15, 1989 the Tarte family sold the resort.*

*For over 40 years, the tradition of excellence has continued at Roche Harbor, the landmark boating and leisure destination resort we see today. And the restaurant remains a favorite for those who come by land and sea to enjoy the most unique dining experience on the northwest tip of the Great Northwest.*

## WELCOME TO ROCHE HARBOR

*On behalf of our entire staff, it's our pleasure to serve you and, should you have any special requests or suggestions, any of us will be happy to accommodate you.*

*Enjoy your dinner tonight and thank you for visiting our village. As John S. McMillin scribed into our courtyard fireplace "May Friendship Fires Always Burn".*

*William D. Shaw, Executive Chef*

*Victor Keane, Chef*