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# Transformation: Twilighting Forks

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# **Transformation: Twilighting Forks**

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The city of Forks in Washington State, nestled on the Olympic Peninsula, has seen a transformation apart from most growing cities. Forks first relied on lumber for economic support



**Figure 1: McClanahan Lumber, “Map of the Olympic Peninsula,”**

<http://www.mcclanahanlumber.com/images/map.gif>

experience *Twilight* in “real life.”

Starting from its humble beginnings and growing into a tight knit small city Forks has had to adjust to fit the needs of tourists who visit the town. A community has been formed by the residents of Forks due to the close proximity of each other, and being far from neighboring cities. The residents have three varieties of reactions: positive, negative and neutral about the *Twilight* tourists. This phenomenal and newfound tourism has changed the small city of Forks as the series has grown to be very popular. Forks is a sufficient enough city that it did not need the new tourist income, yet the residents are working with what has been dealt to them. While Forks has transformed over the last few years, it has long been evolving. Starting in the 1850s people from all over, including foreign countries, began to migrate into the region for a place to settle. As

but in the 1980s encountered a decline. Now Forks has come in to a new form of revenue through tourism, bringing an influx of money into the economy. The ‘vampire’ fictional novels, *Twilight*, were first published in 2005 and came out in theaters in November of 2008. The *Twilight* Series, created by Stephanie Meyer, has caused a rise in tourism, which has impacted the small city of Forks.<sup>1</sup> Tourists come to Forks to

<sup>1</sup> Stephanie Meyer, *The Story Behind Twilight*, <http://www.stepheniemeyer.com/twilight.html>.

time went on, the town grew from the large Forks community to multiple smaller towns (such as Beaver, La Push, and Forks). Houses were being built from the late 1800s and men would travel for work to provide for their families. This increased even further when the timber industry came to the Pacific Northwest.

The most important insight through Forks research is that the city has faced its own challenges, some worse than others, but through it all the residents have stuck together. Forks history is steeped in timber, yet in the 1980s the timber industry began to shut down, bringing a recession that is now being replenished by the *Twilight* tourism. The industry of tourism is not as beneficial as it would appear to be especially to a small city such as Forks. There is now only one large timber company on the Olympic Peninsula, Rygaard Logging, located in Port Angeles. While there are some small mills there is no production, on a great scale, in Forks anymore. Through extensive research, five different approaches to a systematic examination of history could be separated into important categories of analysis that inform, empower and contribute to the understanding of Forks. These historical influences deal with the environment, society/community, the economy, political/human psychology and literary approaches.

### **A Brief Historiography**

There are many categories to look at when analyzing the history of Forks, Washington. Forks started off as a rural town center for fur trappers in 1850. Albert L. Seeman's view on the history of the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State outlines that period in time in 1932, where lumber was considered to be the "backbone" of the Forks economy due to the Olympic Peninsula and its large timber. Some of these trees reach upwards of 300 feet and 10 feet through. The Peninsula is covered with forests that contain: Amabilis fir, Douglas fir, Oregon maple, Red

alder, Sitka spruce, Western hemlock and Western red cedar.<sup>2</sup> The timber industry has played a significant economic role in Forks, where decade after decade trees have been cut down and re-planted. Seeman approaches his history on a combination of environmental and economic interpretation through discussing topography, terrain, and climate with an emphasis on the development of the economy.

In 1964, William O. Douglas explained that the town of Forks, Washington, then known as Forks Community, was surrounded by three different Indian tribes that inhabited the area; the Makah, Ozette and Quileute. The Quileute will be discussed later on in more detail, since their culture is included in the *Twilight* series, which also adds to bringing tourism to their city as well. The tribes clashed against one another but seemed accepting of the Caucasian settlers coming into the region. The first white settlers came into contact with these native tribes when they worked for the Hudson Company looking for materials such as animal furs in 1850, these settlers were living side by side with the native tribes. Transportation of goods was done through nearby river systems, the Pacific Ocean and by foot. Men walked for miles carrying items needed to sustain their families that were living within the region.<sup>3</sup> Timber, even into the 1960s, was the main economic industry that provided employment and life to the small city of Forks.

Douglas is the first to discuss the idea of a sense of community within the city of Forks. He documents activities such as road building, rebuilding houses after a fire, and “fun” gambling games by the locals, bringing on the idea of a tight knit community.<sup>4</sup> Social rituals that are closely attended by residents serve “as a unifier” within the community.<sup>5</sup> The fun gambling

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<sup>2</sup> Albert L. Seeman, “Economic Adjustments on the Olympic Peninsula,” *Economic Geography* 8, no.3 (1932), 301-306.

<sup>3</sup> William O. Douglas, “The Last Frontier in a Dark Forest: Forks, Washington.” In *A Vanishing America: The Life and Times of a Small Town*. (New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1964), 177-179.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, 180.

<sup>5</sup> Hal Rothman, “Tourism as Colonial Economy: Power and Place in Western Tourism.” In *Power and Place in the North American West*. (Seattle, WA: University of Washington, 1999), 186.

games were able to make locals “feel part of something special, a feeling they recall with relish.”<sup>6</sup> This explains some of the later ideas of residents being unhappy with the *Twilight* tourists because they were resistant to change, living in “part nostalgia, part memory of a more innocent time in life.”<sup>7</sup> Douglas gives us a view of that early community explaining both a social and economic environment.

Another historian, Ruth Kirk, who also wrote of the area, also relates an economic interpretation of Forks history. She gives information on different types of transportation, plants, road guides, and more for possible incoming visitors.<sup>8</sup> Kirk focuses on the more recent history such as road paving, building and employment and she looks at the overall progression of the town. Kirk is able to discuss the different types of development Forks faced as time went on. This makes it so a greater understanding of how Forks has changed and expanded is achieved, and shows how it has evolved with the rest of Washington State.

Turning to a more timber based history, Thomas R. Cox begins his argument about the production of lumber being one of the most significant “economic undertakings” in the Pacific Northwest, and Northern California, during his time period.<sup>9</sup> The Pacific Northwest timber industry did not grow as fast as it did in California. California had the advantage of many paved roads and the population to work, so the industry was able to grow at a faster pace, unlike the Olympic Peninsula which is more remote with few paved roads and a lesser population. Those factors made it harder for the timber industry to grow as fast comparatively. Though all the areas began around the same time, major undertakings developed at different speeds and in different time periods. In the early 1840s the Pacific Northwest saw more migrant workers

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<sup>6</sup> Rothman, 186.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, 186.

<sup>8</sup> Ruth Kirk, *Exploring the Olympic Peninsula*, (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1964), 3-60.

<sup>9</sup> Thomas R. Cox, *Mills and Markets: A History of the Pacific Coast Lumber Industry to 1900*, (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1974), 3.

coming into the Willamette Valley due to the rich soil, mild climate, and products made available by markets, which helped to even the odds, bringing more workers.<sup>10</sup> Cox is able to approach the idea of politics and human psychology that entwines with economic development enabling his history on timber to look at the aspirations of individuals and communities.

From the perspective of William L. Lang the exploration of the regional identity and enchanted landscape is characterized by ties of family, history, social duties, spirit, and work. Lang also wrote about the timber company Weyerhaeuser, a well known business in the industry.<sup>11</sup> By the year 2003, Forks was no longer dependant on the timber industry as the main source of income and had changed to other sectors such as public service and business, though some timber cutting can still be seen in the area.<sup>12</sup> The city of Forks holds onto traditions within their town and histories, giving the residents their own identity. People act the way they do according to where they come from, it is what makes the place unique from its neighbors. Through Lang's discussion economic factors are evaluated, but he approaches history in a literary fashion which depicts people similar to the residents on the Olympic Peninsula. Locals in Forks are limited on literature due to their rural area, yet books about the locality can be found.

The tourist industry has been around the Olympic Peninsula for many years, but has mostly been concentrated around camping, hiking, and fishing. For the first time Forks, Washington is seeing tourism for something outside of their comfort zone. People are coming in to see the scenery from the popular *Twilight* fictional novels. In a similar story, Hal Rothman talks about how Ketchum, Idaho became the resort area known as Sun Valley.<sup>13</sup> The section of tourism in Rothman's article shows us a more economic approach to which developmental issues

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<sup>10</sup> Cox, 21 and 33.

<sup>11</sup> William L. Lang, "Beavers, Firs, Salmon, and Falling Water: Pacific Northwest Regionalism and the Environment," *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 104 no. 2(Summer 2003), 5-6.

<sup>12</sup> Linda Peterson, email interview by author, April 28, 2009.

<sup>13</sup> Rothman, 181.

are discussed over those related to social and environmental aspects.

The city of Ketchum/Sun Valley was mostly a farming and small mining town before the tourism that came with the ski resort. Ketchum showed a resident population increase that was faster and larger than that of Forks. In 1930 3,768 people lived in this city, rising to 5,295 residents in a decade. Even today Forks only has about 3,100 residents in the city, making this destination not as large in terms of population. Hotels, restaurants, and shopping areas have been built up over the last quarter of a century. While Forks does have these visiting amenities such as Sun Valley, it is on a smaller scale with not having the numerous amounts. There is not as much competition between the places of businesses for visitors such as it would be in a larger attractive destination, instead retail owner's work together in Forks. With the changing of Ketchum and its residents political approaches can be linked to those of society, community and human psychology by focusing on the origins, the groups of people, and unstated goals of the city.

The facts, figures, and statistics on how Ketchum changed into Sun Valley are important to note due to how many people became service industry workers, and the number of people who moved and the population rose. There have been people that moved into the city of Forks as well for employment, but most of the incoming people are those who want to visit and experience *Twilight*. Also, the cities were made popular destinations by two authors who wrote fictional works making the cities a destination to the outside world: Hemingway and Meyer.<sup>14</sup> This makes for a great comparison to what has happened in Forks. Later a stronger evaluation between Ketchum Idaho and Forks Washington and their rise in tourism will be examined. Bringing in Hemingway gives Rothman the ability to approach Ketchum and its transformation into a tourist destination in a literary depiction.

Ernest Hemingway brought the image of Sun Valley into "crucial authentication" when

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<sup>14</sup> Rothman, 181- 182.



he and “his companion, Martha Gellhorn,” visited for the first time in September of 1939 for two months. The pair returned the “subsequent two years to hunt and fish,” enjoying the area so much. The resort at Sun Valley needed celebrities to come in to fit their “profile,” thus Hemingway was great since he brought “iconographic significance” which “attracted a constituency different from the skiers who swarmed to Sun Valley in the winter.” During the period when Sun Valley had few visitors, “Hemingway had the potential to fill the lodge during another season.”<sup>15</sup> This is similar to Meyer and her affect on Forks, which will be discussed in more detail later on. Hemingway and Meyer were able to bring tourists into Sun Valley and Forks by focusing on the environment and the locale which attracts visitors.

### Forks History

The city of Forks, Washington is nestled within the “heart of the Olympic Peninsula” and lies nearby the Pacific Ocean, its beaches and the Olympic Mountains. The town is about 2,000



Figure 1: The Cabinet, “Forks Signs,”  
<http://www.thecabinet.com/darkdestinations/images/1222968773.jpg>

square miles, and is bordered by rain forest valleys, alpine meadows, and saltwater shores with wild rivers that stretch to over 200 miles long. Forks is known to be the largest city on the West End of Washington State.

The forests within the Olympic Peninsula are dense and

<sup>15</sup> Rothman, 182.

were hard to penetrate until around the 1930s.<sup>16</sup> This was due to the thick forests, unpaved and hard to travel roads, and lack of knowledge of what was located there. Settlers within this region dealt with the “red” people such as: the Makah, Ozette, and Quileute tribes, but with the help of the first governor in the region, Isaac I. Stevens, people lived peacefully side by side as early as the 1850’s.<sup>17</sup> Ecosystems were altered due to the “white newcomers” who “destroyed much of the cultural complex of the native people.”<sup>18</sup> The first white settlers were probably the workmen for the Hudson Company looking for furs, yet in 1874 two men, Ole Nelson and Ely Peterson came and made Forks Prairie their “homestead.”<sup>19</sup> Four years later a couple, Luther and Esther Ford, followed to lay claim to the homestead as well.<sup>20</sup> Coos Bay, Oregon, a logging city located on the Oregon coast, which also saw its fair share of fur trappers and traders when they “began penetrating the southern Oregon coast in the early 1850s.”<sup>21</sup> This makes for a good comparison with Forks.

In the beginning transportation in the region of Forks was hard; people walked or had help from horses. The water routes from the nearby rivers and Pacific Ocean also helped with transporting goods to and from the area, something also done in Coos Bay. Men would set filled packs upon their backs and walked the distance of Forks to the Hoh River, "forty-two miles," carrying months worth of items such as flour, sugar, coffee, salt, cloth, chewing tobacco, canned vegetables to their families. When it came to communication, mail came by trail around twice a week (Monday and Friday) and packages were to be four pounds or less. Finally, in

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<sup>16</sup> Douglas, 176.

<sup>17</sup> Douglas, 176.

<sup>18</sup> William G. Robbins, *Hard Times in Paradise: Coos Bay, Oregon, 1850-1986*. (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1988), 4.

<sup>19</sup> Douglas, 178.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid, 178.

<sup>21</sup> Robbins, 3.

1930, a telephone line was put in so that Forks could “link with the outside world.”<sup>22</sup> This evolution from its isolated beginnings shows how Forks has changed to meet with the times, transforming to match the rest of the world while keeping its privacy intact.

The rain forest on the Olympic Peninsula typically consists of “western hemlock, Sitka spruce, and Douglas fir,” making it so an understory is made which keeps out direct sunlight.<sup>23</sup> The Douglas fir region in the Pacific Northwest ensured that employment would be steady and permanent.<sup>24</sup> This revealed Washington to be “portrayed as having a vast and inexhaustible supply of natural resources.”<sup>25</sup> The Olympic Peninsula, and Forks, was very “isolated and underdeveloped until shortly before World War II.”<sup>26</sup> The changes, before World War II broke out, actually helped bolster the city of Forks instead of making it a “ghost town” like some other places.<sup>27</sup> Impoverished towns such as Forks began to see new opportunities with the increased amount of timber harvest.<sup>28</sup> This was due to the improved roads and new “logging techniques” that made it so men and women had more work.<sup>29</sup>

The first settlers on the Olympic Peninsula region were “ravenous for land” and did not consider “timber rights” since the lumber industry had barely started at that point.<sup>30</sup> Majority of the early settlers were from European countries such as Sweden, Finland, and Norway, and came over to establish themselves.<sup>31</sup> Their original countries were not able to yield any land for them

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<sup>22</sup> Douglas, 178 and 180.

<sup>23</sup> Douglas, 180.

<sup>24</sup> Robbins, 55.

<sup>25</sup> Carlos A. Schwantes, *Radical Heritage: Labor Socialism and Reform in Washington and British Columbia, 1885-1917*, (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1979), 8-9.

<sup>26</sup> Douglas, 177.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid, 177.

<sup>28</sup> Robbins, 130.

<sup>29</sup> Douglas, 177.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid, 180.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid, 180.

to own due to the “over-crowdedness.”<sup>32</sup> One such migrant was Beverly Porter’s grandmother, Henrika Pietila Wasankari, who came from Finland in 1889.<sup>33</sup> Wasankari became a part of other Finnish families in the area of Port Crescent to settle.<sup>34</sup>

Western Washington, including the Olympic Peninsula, saw an increase in the industrial development within the late nineteenth century.<sup>35</sup> Two companies, the Great Northern and Northern Pacific introduced railroad which “stimulated the timber and other industries” during the 1880s.<sup>36</sup> The lumber industry provided Washington and Oregon with “more than half the wages earned.”<sup>37</sup> Logging camps were also established at different Pacific Northwest Bay’s between 1860 and 1870.<sup>38</sup> Being that “the logging and lumbering trade was the mainstay of the local economy,” the camps led to a “liquidation of old growth forests” since this product help build towns, established communities, although the resource suffered.<sup>39</sup> The year 1869 brought the Pacific Coast the felling of 4.1 percent of trees in the annual harvest, last compared to the Northeast, Lake States and South.<sup>40</sup> The annual harvest increased for the Pacific Coast with a 25.5 percent falling, surpassing their competition except for the South.<sup>41</sup> In 1907 the Pacific Coast brought 25 million board feet of timber to be delivered which increased significantly to 150 million four years later.<sup>42</sup>

The early years of the timber industry in Forks, two men worked a full day to take down

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<sup>32</sup> Douglas, 180.

<sup>33</sup> Beverly Porter, “Faith Overcomes Hardships,” In *Sturdy Folk: Personal Accounts of Life and Work on the Olympic Peninsula*, ed. by Mavis Amundson, (Port Angeles, Washington: Olympic Printers, 2004), 59.

<sup>34</sup> Porter, 60.

<sup>35</sup> Eben Pullman, “Radicals and Vigilantes: A Discussion and Comparison of Class Conflict in Everett and Centralia, Washington, 1916-1919.” In *Western Oregon University Senior Thesis 2000*. (Monmouth, Oregon: Western Oregon University, 2000), 1.

<sup>36</sup> Pullman, 1.

<sup>37</sup> Robbins, 55.

<sup>38</sup> Douglas, 181.

<sup>39</sup> Robbins, 5 and 9.

<sup>40</sup> *Ibid*, 53.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid*, 53.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid*, 43.

one large tree.<sup>43</sup> Sometimes the tree stumps were too large to remove: if they were twelve or more feet in width the stumps were burned in place.<sup>44</sup> More men were needed to “fall, yard, and transport logs to mills” before motorized vehicles came along.<sup>45</sup> The unburned lumber was transported to places such as Australia and New Zealand by “clipper ships” which helped the economy of towns.<sup>46</sup> A more active interest soon was apparent in logging when railroads were built, and more camps were established on the “interior” where workers were called “lumber cruisers.”<sup>47</sup> The lumber cruisers were considered to be a “hardy lot” that consisted of four men, sometimes more, with a cook and a gun.<sup>48</sup>

Coos Bay, a logging town on the southern Oregon coast, was also filled with “tough, gritty, persistent people, unafraid of hard and dangerous work and always ready,” making it clear the type of workers needed for the industry.<sup>49</sup> Many men went into logging due to the lack of employment around; Corbin Cook learned the trade from his older neighbor and joined a cutting crew at the age of 16 for \$3.40 a day.<sup>50</sup> Most camps were in isolated areas away from urban comforts and home, with bunkhouses, shacks, or tents to live in filled with many men and fleas.<sup>51</sup> Men were not the only ones in these logging areas; women such as Betty Blake also found employment in logging camps working in the kitchens to prepare food for the loggers.<sup>52</sup>

Loggers were not as job conscious compared to other industries due to the “changing

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<sup>43</sup> Douglas, 181.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid, 181.

<sup>45</sup> Robbins, 58.

<sup>46</sup> Douglas, 181.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid, 183.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid, 183.

<sup>49</sup> Robbins, 10.

<sup>50</sup> Corbin Cook, “Lumberjack Livelihood,” In *Sturdy Folk: Personal Accounts of Life and Work on the Olympic Peninsula*, ed. by Mavis Amundson, (Port Angeles, Washington: Olympic Printers, 2004), 34-35.

<sup>51</sup> Robbins, 60.

<sup>52</sup> Betty Blake, “Logging Camp Cook,” In *Sturdy Folk: Personal Accounts of Life and Work on the Olympic Peninsula*, ed. by Mavis Amundson, (Port Angeles, Washington: Olympic Printers, 2004),

harvest.”<sup>53</sup> This led to the idea that the industry suffered along with the loggers, due to not willing to fight in order to keep employment around. Migration into other logging camps correlated with the “boom and bust cycles of the industry.”<sup>54</sup> Transportation was easier when in the 1930s roads were paved; this made it so that Forks became more of a “community” as opposed to a “remote village.”<sup>55</sup> Social movements affected the Pacific Northwest from between 1900 and World War I, such as “organized labor, radicalism and progressive reform.”<sup>56</sup>

With World War II, the loggers would only cut down the best Douglas firs and left everything else behind.<sup>57</sup> Edward N. Lee, a worker on the railroads, relates how hectic work became with long hours and short rests; he would transport up to 25 rail cars full of logs each day.<sup>58</sup> Expansion followed the war, doubling log production since the early years of the Great Depression.<sup>59</sup> This prolonged period increased enormously from the previous decade in the 1950s by 25 percent.<sup>60</sup> Cables were used to take down the high trees which came to the ground as “battering rams, knocking everything down before them,” this made it so no “green timber” was left.<sup>61</sup> Agrarian virtues, ecological and economic issues were changed due to the timber industry, but could still be “figured prominently” in cities such as Forks.<sup>62</sup>

Forks, like many other lumbering cities, lived in a short-range economic opportunity although it had a “heavy toll in human misery when the market failed or the investor moved on

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<sup>53</sup> Pullman, 7.

<sup>54</sup> Pullman, 7.

<sup>55</sup> Douglas, 184.

<sup>56</sup> Pullman, 3.

<sup>57</sup> Douglas, 184.

<sup>58</sup> Edward N. Lee, “Working on the Railroad,” In *Sturdy Folk: Personal Accounts of Life and Work on the Olympic Peninsula*, ed. by Mavis Amundson, (Port Angeles, Washington: Olympic Printers, 2004), 4.

<sup>59</sup> Robbins, 95.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid, 95.

<sup>61</sup> Douglas, 184.

<sup>62</sup> Pullman, 3.

to new or more profitable sources of wealth.”<sup>63</sup> Lumber and other forest products were the main stay of the economy for more than 150 years which “provided a prime example of migrating capital, rapid liquidation of resources, and boom-and-bust cycles for towns dependent on forest bounty,” similar to what Pullman states.<sup>64</sup> In the early 1980s lumber towns, such as Forks, hit “economic disaster” leading to seven out of ten jobs being eliminated due to an extreme amount of closures because of a “severe recession in the forest products industry.”<sup>65</sup> Other than economic problems, Forks’ timber companies also dealt with natural disasters such as the Great Fire and John Cowan’s windstorm in 1921, where billions of feet of timber were knocked down and destroyed over the years.<sup>66</sup>

On May 25, 1992 Forks welcomed a Loggers Memorial, celebrating what once was the largest economic profit in the town.<sup>67</sup> A crowd of 500 people gathered to see the memorial of around 600 names of deceased Olympic Peninsula timber workers from the late 1800s to 1994.<sup>68</sup> The Forks Logger Memorial can be seen easily on Highway 101 on the southern outskirts of Forks next to the Timber Museum/Visitor Center and the Chamber of Commerce.<sup>69</sup> Forks made the Loggers Memorial a community project that was built out of volunteer materials, labor, and money.<sup>70</sup> Timber and logging is considered to be "a heritage, a culture, and in some cases becomes a family tradition" in the cities and "rural communities in the Pacific Northwest."<sup>71</sup> In 2000, Forks was still employing 18.5 percent of its civilian population in timber, making it

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<sup>63</sup> Robbins, 3.

<sup>64</sup> Robbins, 3.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid, 10 and 168.

<sup>66</sup> John Cowan, “Living off the Land,” In *Sturdy Folk: Personal Accounts of Life and Work on the Olympic Peninsula*, ed. by Mavis Amundson, (Port Angeles, Washington: Olympic Printers, 2004),

<sup>67</sup> Martha Paul, Evelyn Bryson, Susan Goff, June Cassell, and Dave Robinson, “Forks Logger Memorial: A Tribute.” (Forks: Forks, Washington, 1994), 1.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid, 1.

<sup>69</sup> Author visit, Forks, Washington, April 2008.

<sup>70</sup> Paul, Bryson, Goff, Cassell and Robinson, 1.

<sup>71</sup> Ibid, 2.

clear that the industry is still around, just not as prominent as before.<sup>72</sup>

While Forks, Washington is a peaceful place where a family could settle down and have a good income, the region had its share of protests. Myrel Rand Earlywine talks about how moving to Port Angeles, north of Forks; on the Olympic Peninsula was a “delight” due to the higher pay and food included within her wages.<sup>73</sup> Forks, like many other cities, was ready and willing to see change, as long as it benefited the residents. The protests dealt with “organizing local, regional, and national conservationists to protect various Pacific Northwest places from road-building and timber-cutting.”<sup>74</sup> Road building did not seem to be a problem within Forks because people travel to work. Those who benefited most from road building were people who did not own businesses since they were “no longer cut off from the outside world in winter.”<sup>75</sup>

One such protest is known as the Olympic Beach Hike and was in 1954 lead by William O. Douglas. The Olympic Beach Hike gained national attention from the National Park Service by protesting the proposal on constructing a road on the “remote Pacific Beach in Washington’s Olympic National Park.” Instead of driving, Douglas led hikers to experience the National Park and surrounding areas. Douglas wanted to “bring attention to the road debate” by “happily” leading the hike. The participants of the hike “responded well” to its “underlying message” and even offered an alternative to locals, that a road should be paved “east of the Ocean Strip portion of Olympic National Park” so that National Park Service land would not be crossed. Douglas and his fellow hikers emerged from their protest “triumphant, no road has been built.”<sup>76</sup>

Douglas believed that there should be a limit on how many roads are built, but that a road

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<sup>72</sup> Paul, Bryson, Goff, Cassell and Robinson, 2.

<sup>73</sup> Myrel Rand Earlywine, “Waitress in Port Angeles.” In *Sturdy Folk: Personal Accounts of Life and Work on the Olympic Peninsula*. Edited by Mavis Amundson. (Port Angeles, Washington: Olympic Printers, 2004), 6.

<sup>74</sup> Adam M. Sowards, “William O. Douglas's Wilderness Politics: Public Protest and Committees of Correspondence in the Pacific Northwest,” *Western Historical Quarterly* 37 no.1 (Spring 2006): 22.

<sup>75</sup> Rothman, 185.

<sup>76</sup> Sowards, 25 - 32.



on the peninsula was necessary, however needed to avoid the Olympic National and the Hoh Rain Forests.<sup>77</sup> Although the Olympic Peninsula attracts many tourists, especially during the summer season, some locals complained about “outsiders coming to the peninsula and preventing economic development.”<sup>78</sup> It is understandable that most of the Peninsula’s economy is based locally, but during the summer and other seasons “outsiders” also contribute to their economy. With the Wilderness Act, the marking trees for cutting, by the Forest Service probably cost Forks some needed money for their economy.<sup>79</sup> Tourism then did its part in helping the situation, which caters to the “outsiders more than the local people.”<sup>80</sup>

Tourism is when people decide to “move” to another place for a temporary time period from what is considered to be their “normal” routine.<sup>81</sup> People leave their home to create a “two-way exchange of culture, ideas and behavior” with another place, but the “brunt of change” is exacted on the local population when they changed to fit the “image of what visitors seek.”<sup>82</sup> Their needs will be catered to on their “vacation” when it comes to activities and the facilities they stay in.<sup>83</sup> According to Mathieson and Wall, “the study of tourism is the study of people away from their usual habitat” and the “impact that they have on the economic, physical, and social well-being of their hosts.”<sup>84</sup> In the economy, tourism is considered unusual but it does create a “product that can be purchased.”<sup>85</sup> This makes it so many communities, large and small, can introduce tourism into town, which in the end helps boost their economy. Tourism is a type

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<sup>77</sup> Sowards, 22 and 27.

<sup>78</sup> Ibid, 31.

<sup>79</sup> Ibid, 38.

<sup>80</sup> Rothman, 190.

<sup>81</sup> Alister Mathieson and Geoffrey Wall, *Tourism: Economic, Physical, and Social Impacts* (New York: Longman, 1982), 1.

<sup>82</sup> Rothman, 179.

<sup>83</sup> Mathieson and Wall, 1.

<sup>84</sup> Ibid, 1.

<sup>85</sup> Rothman, 179.

of reflection to those who visit so they can seek exactly what they want.<sup>86</sup> Yet, tourism has conflicts that are “inherent in the evolution” of the economy, although there is an increase in visitation, transformed the identity already in place and wanting to be protected by the citizens.<sup>87</sup>

Out of all the economic activities that can be offered, tourism proves to show the fastest in growth overall.<sup>88</sup> It is also one of the more unusual economic endeavors because “tourism creates a product that can be purchased” although “what it offers is barely tangible.”<sup>89</sup> This is due to the high demand of visitors and their needs. In order to promote even more tourism, places have taken what they make in tax revenues, since it is a “by product of tourism expenditures” so that social service will be improved and the environment can be cleaned up.<sup>90</sup> The merchants of the retail trade, arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodations and food services workers only made up 7.1% of the employed population in Forks in 2000.<sup>91</sup> Sully’s Burgers has sold more than 5,000 Bella Burgers to date (Bella being the main female character in *Twilight*).<sup>92</sup> In November 2008 ‘Dazzled by Twilight’ was opened to tourists and took over the guided tours of Forks on March 1, 2009 from the Forks Chamber of Commerce.<sup>93</sup> Resort type communities that cater highly to visitors could possibly carry “social and psychic costs.”<sup>94</sup> The Miller Tree Inn, designated the ‘Cullen House’ (the vampire family’s home in *Twilight*), used to have over 100 people a day coming in before the tours were conducted to see all the places mentioned in the books.<sup>95</sup>

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<sup>86</sup> Rothman, 180.

<sup>87</sup> Ibid, 177.

<sup>88</sup> Mathieson, 1.

<sup>89</sup> Rothman, 179.

<sup>90</sup> Mathieson, 3.

<sup>91</sup> *Profile of Selected Social Characteristics: 2000*, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000, 2.

<sup>92</sup> Travis Belles, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

<sup>93</sup> Ibid

<sup>94</sup> Rothman, 186.

Tourism was, and still could be considered, not the largest producer of income to the Forks economy.<sup>96</sup> In Forks' economic base tourism came third, after government (school, prison, local) and natural resources, only producing 1/6th of the income.<sup>97</sup> Today *Twilight* has visitors such as Tamesa Rapp who needed to come to Forks because she was obsessed with the books by Meyer.<sup>98</sup> There have been visitors from over twenty countries: Germany, France, South Africa, Spain and more, as well as every state in the union.<sup>99</sup> Visitors are any age, from teenagers to great-grandmothers who come to Forks due to the lottery Meyer selected for the Forks economy.<sup>100</sup> The books of *Twilight* has become a global phenomena overall.<sup>101</sup>



**Figure 2: Lebleb.com, “Twilight Movie Advertisement,”**  
<http://www.lebleb.com/images/sopot/Twilight.jpg>

## Twilight

Due to the books and later the movies coming out fans of the *Twilight* series flowed into Forks wanting to experience what they had read and/or watched. The general synopsis of *Twilight* is that a seventeen year old girl moves to the small town of Forks to live with her father. While there and going to high school, she meets a teenager who turns out to be a vampire. The series focuses

<sup>95</sup> Susan Brager, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

<sup>96</sup> *Profile of Selected Social Characteristics: 2000*, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000, 3.

<sup>97</sup> Ibid, 5.

<sup>98</sup> Tamesa Rapp, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

<sup>99</sup> Marcia Bingham, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

<sup>100</sup> Ibid

<sup>101</sup> Bert Paul, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

\*Stephanie Meyer holds a Bachelor’s degree in English from Brigham Young University and is the author of the *Twilight* series. She began her series as a stay at home mom with three sons when she had a dream which inspired the books. Over time and through everyday tasks Meyer was maybe to write the plot of the novel before submitting it to numerous publishing companies. (Stephanie Meyer, *Bio*, <http://www.stepheniemeyer.com/bio.html>)

on their lives and discovery of love together through supernatural trials and tribulations they seem to encounter.<sup>102</sup> Forks, Washington was used as the place where the *Twilight* book, and thereafter the movie, because of its high percentage of rain and cloud cover.<sup>103</sup> To find this place Meyer went online to the Google search engine and “looked for the place with the most rainfall in the U.S.”<sup>104</sup> Instead of the city coming up first, the area of the Olympic Peninsula did, where she narrowed down her search to find a tiny town, Forks.<sup>105\*</sup>

Another reason why Stephanie Meyer chose Forks and the Olympic Peninsula as the “birth place” of her series is that the Pacific Northwest region is known to have great “geographical isolation and natural wealth.” People have learned to live with this fact, especially in Forks where they are over an hour away from any kind of large city. Like many other places the “indigenous people” within the area have a “regional identity” and as it is put they live within an “enchanted environment” that is “embedded in interrelationships between humans and non-humans.”<sup>106</sup> Indigenous people tend to be Native Americans, but in the case of cities like Forks, it could mean the long term residents of the area. It is obvious that non-humans mean animals, but being as some of the research deals with the idea of the supernatural, it is possible to look at it from that standpoint as well. The idea that Lang believes the region to have an

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<sup>102</sup> During the time that Stephanie Meyer was beginning to write the series (June of 2003) the rate of precipitation was around four inches, higher than the United States average. However, in winter months (November through February) the rate of precipitation is between fifteen to nineteen inches of rain. Another important portion of Meyer’s story included the idea that other than having rain, the place needed to be under clouds often instead of dealing with sun on a regular basis. On average the United States sees anywhere from fifty to seventy percent of sun, while in Forks only around twenty to forty-five percent of sun is seen throughout the year. About ninety percent of the year there seems to be some kind of cloud cover over Forks, making the town to be an even more realistically perfect place to base the *Twilight* saga. To bolster her thought process, the fact that Forks was nearby forests, meadows and La Push, an Indian reservation, made it clearer that is where she wanted to base her story. (City-Data.com, “Forks, Washington,” <http://www.city-data.com/Forks-Washington.html>)

<sup>103</sup> Stephanie Meyer, *The Story Behind Twilight*, <http://www.stepheniemeyer.com/twilight.html>

<sup>104</sup> Ibid

<sup>105</sup> Ibid

<sup>106</sup> Lang, 4.

enchanted feel also could be another reason why Stephanie Meyer thought to place her *Twilight* vampire series in this area.

La Push is another city, nearby Forks, that is mentioned in the *Twilight* series. La Push is home to the Quileute Native American Tribe, and their story about coming from the wolf causes quite a stir in the books. While *Twilight* is mostly about vampires, there are werewolves included, young Quileute men who protect their reservation. The stories of the tribe have been passed down over the years about how the land of the Quileute is considered to be the land of the people.<sup>107</sup> According to the Quileute, animals were the only living beings that inhabited the area at first before they decided to become people and live in La Push, charged with the responsibility of taking care of the land and other animals who did not want to become humans.<sup>108</sup> There is a spiritual connection that is made by these natives to the living things around them, whether immobile or not.<sup>109</sup> The Quileute originally came from the wolf, living out most of their lives in La Push raiding with their enemy the Makah.<sup>110</sup> La Push, like most of Forks, is happy to see tourism in their economy and they just wish to make visitors happy.<sup>111</sup>

To add with the idea of regional identity and the enchanted landscape leads the people to be attached by family, history, social duties, spirit, and work. This is important since now Forks is being looked at as some enchanted location where the supernatural reign and is interspersed with the community. The timber industry on the Olympic Peninsula is the large “iconographic natural resource economy” and shows that this region is wealthy in that aspect. As a symbol that shows what the Pacific Northwest is, is the richness in terms of lumber is the

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<sup>107</sup> Anita Wheeler, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

<sup>108</sup> Ibid

<sup>109</sup> Roy Black Jr, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

<sup>110</sup> Ibid

<sup>111</sup> Ibid

amount of timber towns as well as millponds, river log drives, and teepee burners.<sup>112</sup>

Fictional works, like Lang's idea of the enchanted atmosphere, has played a large part in people's lives for a long time, and *Twilight* is not an exception. The idea of 'enchantment' began in the Enlightenment during the eighteenth century by the "elite" people within society. Superstitions were also linked with the idea of enchantment, such as vampires. During the Enlightenment, scientists wanted to prove why everything was able to work due to the science they conducted, and that "reason would free individuals from being enthralled by such enchantments." Things that were considered to be "marvels" or "wonders" would be explained away by science and a more literal translation, changing the ideas people established in their minds from the beginning. This causes the idea that the unbelievable could exist, however typically imagination is erased. Yet, such things were not completely extinguished instead it just switched to a different social circle in society, who was considered to be more inferior: lower classes, women, children and "primitives." Intelligent people were supposed to hold such fictional objects such as "astrology, witchcraft, magical healing, divination, ancient prophecies, ghosts and fairies" in disregard, although many historians actually did study such "modern enchantments." Fictional wonders in particular played a crucial role when it came as miracles and the world views during these time periods.<sup>113</sup> People visit Forks to experience the book, live the dream of *Twilight* for a while, because the city is a kind of Eden with natural majesty almost too beautiful to be real.<sup>114</sup>

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<sup>112</sup> Lang, 6.

<sup>113</sup> Michael Saler, "Modernity and Enchantment: A Historiographic Review," *The American Historical Review* (June 2006): 696-702.

<sup>114</sup> John Granger, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

## Forks

Interviewing resident Linda Peterson brought to the forefront many topics from her perspective. Fork's economy depended primarily on timber, even up until the middle of the 1980s. In the 1970s there was a logging boom which slowed down, leading to the timber recession of the 1980s.<sup>115</sup> Within the 1980s there were around five sawmills, three of which are still there, and there were around forty shake/shingle mills, five are still in existence. The Washington Department of Natural Resources and the Federal Forest Service acquired numerous employees in between them, but only "skeleton" crews seem to be what are still around today. According to Peterson anywhere from eight to ten companies that dealt with logging have gone out of business and multiple truckers and haulers are gone as well. There are a few hold-outs of loggers and mills trying to keep up the timber industry in Forks, once considered to be the logging capital of the world, which used to draw people here.<sup>116</sup> The timber industry is one that extracts resources, but with that business comes and goes, leaving Forks with a bleak economic future.<sup>117</sup> There was a shut down when it came to logging on the federal and state lands due to the spotted owl as being listed an endangered species.

Unfortunately, hundreds of people were employed during this time, and lost their jobs shortly thereafter. While the economy looked bleak after the decline in the timber industry, *Twilight* came.<sup>118</sup> Tourism brings in money into the economy, which supports the town, however they are not able to depend completely on that income.<sup>119</sup> In the early 1990s two of

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<sup>115</sup> Sean Norbistrath, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

<sup>116</sup> Ibid

<sup>117</sup> John Hunter, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

<sup>118</sup> Charlene Leppell, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

<sup>119</sup> Linda Peterson, email interview by author, April 28, 2009.

Washington State's correctional facilities were placed about twenty-five miles south of Forks.<sup>120</sup> This made it possible for many people to acquire jobs and help "take up the slack with the unemployment issue."<sup>121</sup>

Although the first *Twilight* book was written in 2003 and published in 2005, the city of Forks did not see a significant increase in tourism until around 2007 and 2008. One of the reasons behind the sharp increase during this time period is because the book *Twilight* had begun the process of being transformed into a movie. The movie production company Summit had decided to contract with Meyer, director Catherine Hardwicke, and screen writer Melissa Rosenberg to make *Twilight* into a major motion picture during the summer of 2007.<sup>122</sup> The movie *Twilight* was released on November 21, 2008.<sup>123</sup>

Forks, Washington has seen an influx of tourism due to the fictional *Twilight* book series. An increase in visitors occurred soon after the books were made into blockbuster movies by Summit Entertainment. Yet, the residents could be split into three different categories on how they feel about this tourism circled by a phenomenal event. There are those who do not care one way or another about the tourism, such as Sean Norbistrath (Shingle Sawyer), those who love it and are positive about it, Charlene Leppell (owner of Leppell's Flowers), and those who dislike the new tourism. While some may not appreciate the new found economic contributions made by the visiting tourists the town seems to be prospering more than anything else. Most of the residents do not mind the visitors because it is good for the businesses; tourists are spending money, helping the Forks economy, which is for the benefit of the residents.

There are a lot of residents who do not care about *Twilight*, what it represents for Forks,

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<sup>120</sup> Washington State Department of Corrections, "Olympic Corrections Center," <http://www.doc.wa.gov/facilities/olympic.asp>

<sup>121</sup> Linda Peterson, email interview by author, April 28, 2009.

<sup>122</sup> Stephanie Meyer, *Twilight: The Movie*, [http://www.stepheniemeyer.com/twilight\\_movie.html](http://www.stepheniemeyer.com/twilight_movie.html).

<sup>123</sup> Ibid



and just want their privacy.<sup>124</sup> Although some possible bitterness may be on the minds of residents, it does not affect the appeal and package that Forks has to offer visitors. Rothman states that locals can respond with “anger, alienation, and nostalgia, as well as the kind of arrogance and self-righteousness” when tourism comes to their small community.<sup>125</sup> With the book *Twilight*, Peterson goes on to note that many of the residents were surprised that the visitors actually wanted to see the town of Forks and, “not the rivers or mountains near us.”<sup>126</sup> There were even families who moved out to Forks after reading the *Twilight* books.<sup>127</sup> Some businesses have been impacted, particular lodging and restaurants, “which in turn, does impact all of us living and working here. Stronger businesses in general mean a stronger community.”<sup>128</sup> Peterson believes that some residents are still “skeptical” when it comes to the visitors purely being there for *Twilight*, but some are “downright giddy.”<sup>129</sup>

The positive people seem to like the tourism for the economic benefits that are flowing in. Forks Police Chief, Mike Powell, enjoys meeting the tourists who come to see “Charlie Swan” (Father of protagonist and Police Chief in *Twilight*) and take pictures.<sup>130</sup> Dr. Kenneth Romney, like Powell, is happy to interact with visitors because he loves living in Forks and wants to share it with the world.<sup>131</sup> Forks, while it had tourism before, it was not on the scale as it is now. Visitors came in during the summer for recreational outdoor activities, typically in the

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<sup>124</sup> Sean Norbistrath, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

<sup>125</sup> Rothman, 177.

<sup>126</sup> Linda Peterson, email interview by author, April 28, 2009.

<sup>127</sup> Travis Belles, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

<sup>128</sup> Linda Peterson, email interview by author, April 28, 2009.

<sup>129</sup> Ibid

<sup>130</sup> Mike Powell, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

<sup>131</sup> Dr. Kenneth Romney, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

summer.<sup>132</sup> With the new *Twilight* tourism, the city is seeing people come all year round to see where the Vampires and Werewolves live.<sup>133</sup> There have been two or three new businesses, but other established small businesses are now selling their wares to this new crop of people, and having to adjust their product to do so.<sup>134</sup> Forks Outfitters have been able to sell more *Twilight* merchandise, to offset the fact that work wear is not being sold since the decrease in the timber industry.<sup>135</sup> Leppell's Flowers is one such business who has had to adjust their stock by including multiple *Twilight* items, and an Alice (a vampire from *Twilight*), Christyne Whatman a transplant from Ohio, look-alike employee. A new store has also opened just because of the book series: Dazzled by Twilight. Dazzled by Twilight sells numerous wares inspired by the book and movie series as well as conducting different tours around Forks, to show visitors places the book mentions.<sup>136</sup>

Those who feel negatively about the tourism have their reasons, although most agree the new economy being brought into the town is a good thing. Privacy is an important issue that could be considered ignored by other residents and tourists into Forks.<sup>137</sup> The population peaks at around 3,500 people, so the influx of strangers wanting to see the city could make lifelong residents uncomfortable.<sup>138</sup> Residents were used to knowing everyone in Forks, being close to one another, and having their city was a kind of secret to the outside world.<sup>139</sup> This new sensation of tourists and their main reason for visiting could be considered many different things,

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<sup>132</sup> Sean Weekes, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

<sup>133</sup> Ibid

<sup>134</sup> Sean Weekes, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

<sup>135</sup> Bruce Paul, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

<sup>136</sup> Author visit, Forks, Washington, April 2008.

<sup>137</sup> Sean Norbistrath, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

<sup>138</sup> Ibid

<sup>139</sup> Marin Gaydeski, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

but it goes without saying, people in Forks could be consider disconnected from the outside world. Forks was unaware of what *Twilight* was at first and needed to work quickly to adjust to the mass of tourism they would encounter.<sup>140</sup> It took some time for Forks to meet the expectations of visitors, and then the city experienced a “trickle then a flood” of people visiting.<sup>141</sup> These residents of Forks just want a small, safe, quiet, and self sufficient town. Many generations of families have grown up and settled and to them this new mania is overwhelming.<sup>142</sup>

Before people were aware of Forks, the tourism rate was “practically nil” before the establishment of the Olympic National Park in 1938.<sup>143</sup> The beginning of tourism was welcomed by the residents of Forks since that meant people could have a livelihood and many different people came looking for a multiple of activities that Forks could produce.<sup>144</sup> While Forks, Washington had decently high tourism during the summer months due to their location, the people coming in were interested about *Twilight* and the place it was “written” in has helped out their small economy. The location of the town makes it possible for people to go hiking, fishing, and camping.<sup>145</sup> The Hoh Rainforest and many coastal beaches are located about twenty miles away.<sup>146</sup> Prior to *Twilight*, the tourism that was only seen for around three months long, became closer to six or nine months. Fans are not afraid of the rain and the possible miserable weather they may come into contact with; instead they thrive on it, thinking that is

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<sup>140</sup> Charlene Leppell, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

<sup>141</sup> Marcia Bingham, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

<sup>142</sup> Sean Norbistrath, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

<sup>143</sup> Douglas, 186.

<sup>144</sup> Ibid, 188.

<sup>145</sup> Author visit, Forks, Washington, April 2008.

<sup>146</sup> Ibid.

when the “vampires” roam outside.<sup>147</sup>

The largest increase in tourism can be found during August of 2008 when the Forks Chamber of Commerce recorded having over 4,100 tourists come through, more than the actual living population of the town.<sup>148</sup> Yet, on September 13<sup>th</sup> every year thousands of tourists come to visit for Stephanie Meyer day, going on tours around town.<sup>149</sup> People were backed up on the sidewalks wanting to see the city to the surprise of resident Marin Gaydeski.<sup>150</sup> While that is within the summer when their tourism usually is, in March of 2009 the Chamber of Commerce recorded almost 4,000 visitors, this being outside of the normal “seasonal tourism.”<sup>151</sup> The percentage of change from between the tourism rate in January of 2008 (145 people) and of 2009 (2,003 people) was to have been at a 1281.00 percent increase in tourism.<sup>152</sup> This increase continued into 2010 when in January 2,087 visitors came through the information office, 4.20 percent more than 2009.<sup>153</sup> Visitors come from all over the world to experience *Twilight* but they return to vacation in Forks.<sup>154</sup> This high increase may not be what the problem is for those residents who are unhappy with their privacy being intruded upon. Instead, the sharp increase in a short span of time may be what the difficulty for accepting the tourists is, there are too many people visiting in a small period of time.

Forks, Washington has come a far way since their beginning and humble roots. It seems as though the people of Forks was always willing and welcoming of change. If change did

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<sup>147</sup> Marcia Bingham, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

<sup>148</sup> Mike Gurling, email interview by author, April 28, 2009.

<sup>149</sup> Marcia Bingham, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

<sup>150</sup> Marin Gaydeski, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

<sup>151</sup> Mike Gurling, email interview by author, April 28, 2009.

<sup>152</sup> Ibid

<sup>153</sup> Ibid

<sup>154</sup> Marcia Bingham, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

occur they would just adapt to the new “lifestyle” that came upon them. Still, with altering a place, which is made to help bolster the economy, should only be concluded as good and positive situations that happen. The history of Forks and its tenacious residents, who have lived through some tough times, shows the strength of the people and the willingness to survive and help one another out.<sup>155</sup> With the release and “mega” popularity of *Twilight* more adjustment happened to this small populated town. It brought in visitors from all over the world, which also brought money into their economy even more so. The residents of Forks have welcomed the mania that has been presented and “ran with the punches” it has brought, bringing a wonderful treat.<sup>156</sup> Realistically though Forks is a place that exists, *Twilight* is a fictional novel that involves the supernatural and the interesting that has grown due to tourism.<sup>157</sup> Forks have its ups and downs as a town, the positive and negatives. What is truly important to note is the fact that this self-reliant town’s residents have stuck to one another, helping one another out, and will continue to do so once the mania slows down or disappears.<sup>158</sup> Forks is more than what you expect when you visit.<sup>159</sup>

Forks has yet to meet the problems associated with tourism, the redistribution of power from the residents to the visitors, the overuse and overproduction that will lead to resentment over the way things “used to be.” With transforming the city to meet the needs of tourists a “dislocation occurs” and over time it can become “threatening and stultifying, burying the locals’ sense of place within the reformed space of the visitor’s construct.” There is no where on the

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<sup>155</sup> John Hunter, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

<sup>156</sup> Marcia Bingham, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

<sup>157</sup> Marin Gaydeski, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

<sup>158</sup> Darci Haugh, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

<sup>159</sup> Travis Belles, Interviewed by Summit Entertainment and Hecklesville Media, *Twilight in Forks: The Saga of the Real Town*, Summit Entertainment LLC, 2009.

west portion of the United States, or the world, that “remains the same after it shifts to depend on tourism or even to acknowledge how necessary tourism already is in its economic equation.”<sup>160</sup>

Through the brief historiography many approaches were used as conceptual ideas in how Forks has transformed over time. In that cause it is easier to draw a conclusion on how Forks, Washington has endeavored to try and meet the needs of tourists who come into the town due to the fictional *Twilight* Saga. Yet, like most of cities that have transformed over the years, there are numerous reasons for this built up. While *Twilight* has brought recent recognition to Forks, the city has been thriving since the 1850s when it was part of a larger community. The economy was stable with the timber industry until the 1980s when some of the newly laid off workers went to become employed at the local correctional facilities. Many businesses such as hotels and restaurants started to dot the landscape and have populated the city. These smaller businesses became important since Forks was a summer tourist destination for those interested in outdoor activities: hiking, rafting, camping and more. Although since 2005, during their off season, Forks has been able to accumulate more income into their economy by visitors wanting to see where *Twilight* is "from." Even though there is more money coming in, Forks needs to output more money and energy to fit the needs of their visitors. Therefore the economy in terms of tourism is not as substantial as one may think. No matter what the residents may feel towards this new found tourism, there has been more jobs created, more money is coming in, and they are able to share their town with the outside world. What is important to note is that this *Twilight* tourism will someday fizzle down, but Forks will continue to survive and thrive as it always has from its beginning.

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<sup>160</sup> Rothman, 178-180.

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