

# **Portrayal of the Environment in Hangötidningen 1890-1977**

Degree Thesis

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Thesis for a Bachelor of Natural Resources (UAS) - degree

Sustainable Coastal Management, Hangö 2022

## **DEGREE THESIS**

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Degree Programme and place of study: Sustainable Coastal Management, Ekenäs

Specialisation: Environment

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Title: Portrayal of the Environment in Hangötidningen 1890-1977

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Date: 31.5.2022 Number of pages: 29

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### **Abstract**

I have studied the literature series Hangö i Tiden and investigated how nature and environmental issues were portrayed in Hangötidningen from 1890 to 1977. With this I have investigated how things were written back then and how the media portrayed the environment. We can also learn how that thinking affected decision-making and projects. People interested in history, nature or both as well as researchers will benefit from this compilation. Nothing has ever been written about this before, therefore I have filled a research gap and also helped other people and researchers. On national and global levels similar research has been made but never anything about Hangö. I wanted to write specifically about Hangö because a) nothing exists b) due to the important environment on the peninsula c) to inform d) due to personal interest in the matter. I have worked with historical data because such matters are analyzed and discussed very much today regarding current information but not much is mentioned about how it was before. By understanding the history better, we can also understand the present in a better way. The thesis shows how the portrayal in topics have changed during this time period. There is a change in percentage of environmental articles over the years, but it is not so significant, during the more rural years there were slightly more environmental articles. The overall tone is quite similar over the period but some of the subjects change very much because of local problems and needs. The public interest in the environment is on the same level throughout the period and even in the late 1800s people are worried about their local forests and beaches.

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Language: English

Key Words: Hangö, Hangötidningen, Media, Environment

## EXAMENSARBETE

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Utbildning och ort: Sustainable Coastal Management, Ekenäs

Inriktning: Miljö

Handledare: Stefan Heinänen

Titel: Portrayal of the Environment in Hangötidningen 1890-1977

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Datum 31.5.2022 Sidantal 29

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### Abstrakt

Jag har studerat litteraturserien Hangö i Tiden och undersökt hur natur- och miljöfrågor skildrades i Hangötidningen från 1890 till 1977. Med detta har jag undersökt hur saker skrevs då och hur media framställde miljön. Vi kan också lära oss hur det tänkandet påverkade beslutsfattande och projekt. Personer som är intresserade av historia, natur eller båda och forskare kommer att ha nytta av denna sammanställning. Jag har forskat om hur naturen framställdes i media i Hangö under de åren. Det har aldrig skrivits något om detta tidigare, Därför har jag fyllt ett tomrum och även hjälpt andra människor och forskare. På nationell och global nivå har liknande saker gjorts men aldrig något om Hangö. Jag ville skriva specifikt om Hangö eftersom a) inget existerar b) på grund av den viktiga miljön på udden c) för att informera d) på grund av personligt intresse i frågan. Jag har arbetat med historiska data eftersom sådana här saker analyseras och diskuteras väldigt mycket idag gällande aktuell information men det nämns inte så mycket om hur det var tidigare. Genom att förstå historien bättre kan vi också förstå nutiden på ett bättre sätt. Avhandlingen visar hur skildringarna av ämnen har förändrats under denna tidsperiod. Det sker en förändring i andelen miljöartiklar över åren men den är inte så signifikant, under de mer rurala åren var det något fler miljöartiklar. Den övergripande tonen är ganska likartad under perioden men vissa av ämnena förändras mycket på grund av lokala problem och behov. Allmänhetens intresse för miljön är på samma nivå under hela perioden och även i slutet av 1800-talet är man orolig för sina lokala skogar och stränder.

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Språk: Engelska

Nyckelord: Hangö, Hangötidningen, Media

## OPINNÄYTETYÖ

Tekijä: Joakim Sebastian Welander

Koulutus ja paikkakunta: Sustainable Coastal Management, Ekenäs

Suuntautumisvaihtoehto: Luonto

Ohjaaja: Stefan Heinänen

Nimike: Portrayal of the Environment in Hangötidningen 1890-1977

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Päivämäärä 31.5.2022 Sivumäärä 29

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### Tiivistelmä

Olen tutkinut kirjallisuussarjaa Hangö i Tiden ja tutkinut, miten luonto- ja ympäristöasioita on kuvattu Hangötidningenissä vuosina 1890-1977. Tämän avulla olen tutkinut, miten asioita kirjoitettiin tuolloin ja miten media kuvasi ympäristöä. Saamme myös oppia, kuinka tuo ajattelu vaikutti päätöksentekoon ja projekteihin. Kokoelmasta hyötyvät historiasta, luonnosta tai molemmista kiinnostuneet sekä tutkijat. Olen tutkinut, miten luontoa on kuvattu tiedotusvälineissä Hangossa noina vuosina. Tästä ei ole koskaan aiemmin kirjoitettu mitään, Siksi olen täyttänyt aukon ja auttanut myös muita ihmisiä ja tutkijoita. Kansallisella ja globaalilla tasolla on tehty samanlaisia asioita, mutta Hangosta ei koskaan mitään. Halusin kirjoittaa nimenomaan Hangosta, koska a) mitään ei ole olemassa b) niemimaan tärkeän ympäristön vuoksi c) tiedottaa d) henkilökohtaisen kiinnostuksen vuoksi. Olen työskennellyt historiallisen datan parissa, koska tällaisia asioita analysoidaan ja keskustellaan nykyään paljon nykytiedon suhteen, mutta siitä, miten se oli ennen, ei juuri mainita. Ymmärtämällä historiaa paremmin voimme ymmärtää paremmin myös nykypäivää. Opinnäytetyössä nähdään, kuinka kuvaus aiheissa on muuttunut tänä aikana. Ympäristöartikkeleiden prosenttiosuudessa on tapahtunut vuosien aikana muutosta, mutta se ei ole niin merkittävää, maaseutuvuosina ympäristöartikkeleita oli hieman enemmän. Yleissävy on melko samankaltainen jakson aikana, mutta osa aiheista muuttuu suuresti paikallisten ongelmien ja tarpeiden vuoksi. Yleisön kiinnostus ympäristöä kohtaan on koko ajan samalla tasolla ja 1800-luvun lopullakin ihmiset ovat huolissaan paikallisista metsistään ja rannoistaan.

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Kieli: Englanti

Avainsanat: Hanko, Hangötidningen, Media



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## 1 Introduction

Previously many books and other publications have been made about Hangö but none of them is about how the newspapers have written about the environment. Therefore, have I chosen this as my thesis. I hope to fill a research gap about Hangö. Other subjects have been written about such as the harbor, the industry, the First World War, the Second World War, shops, tourism, old buildings, local celebrities, the archipelago, schools, restaurants, banks, sports and religion (Holmström, 2000, p. 184). With this in mind it is very suitable that I write about the media and the environment, a combination that has not been written about before in Hangö.

I have studied the literature series Hangö i Tiden which is a compilation of articles that have been published in Hangötidningen and investigated how nature and environmental issues were portrayed in Hangötidningen from 1890 to 1977. With this I have investigated how things were written back then and how the media portrayed the environment. We can also learn how that thinking affected decision-making and projects. People interested in history, nature or both as well as researchers will benefit from this compilation. I have researched how nature was portrayed in the media in Hangö during those years. Nothing has ever been written about this before, therefore I have filled a research gap and add to the existing scholarship. On national and global levels similar things have been made but never anything about Hangö. I wanted to write specifically about Hangö because a) nothing exists b) due to the important environment on the peninsula c) to make this information available d) due to personal interest in the matter. I have worked with historical data because such matters are analyzed and discussed very much today regarding current information but not much is mentioned about how it was before. By understanding the history better, we can also understand the present in a better way. The thesis shows how the portrayal in topics have changed during this time period.

Others have done research regarding media and the environment, but it has mostly been with a larger focus on more national or international issues. In larger contexts trends can be seen but they are also much more influenced by politics, for instance, the SVT is influenced by Swedish politics due to the fact that the channels are owned by the government and that will guarantee a certain material regarding environmental issues (Djerf-Pierre, p. 300). Private media can also have biases, but I believe Hangötidningen have

not been politically influenced in this area and reports only what is happening. Only the interests of individual Hangötidningen journalists can affect the results.

I find it likely that similar trends in reporting about the environment have been present in other regions in the Nordic countries. The text written by Tuomas Räsänen supports this by claiming that Nordic interest in environmental issues started with scientific discoveries in Sweden instead of the more discussed theory that environmental-political books such as *Silent Spring* started the interest in talking about the environment. (Räsänen, p. 1, 2012)

With this background information in mind, I have researched how the reporting has been done in Hangö and how the material has changed over the years.

What is written in the press has a big impact on people, some older people in Hangö believe that everything that is written in a newspaper must be the truth. I have personally met such people on many occasions. They are often older uneducated people that have not travelled much. Therefore, the media has a huge responsibility when it comes to what they write about and how they write about it. Personally, I prefer media just to inform about what is happening in an objective way, I dislike the idea that the media should influence people or spread certain ideologies. Nowadays people get information from many sources, both physical and digital but before Internet newspapers and television were the two major sources and they had more of an impact compared to today. (Schmitz, 1985, p. 6)

When people read about the environment and environmental problems in newspapers, they become aware of the problems and can form their own opinions and ideas how the problems should be dealt with. Newspapers have an important role in informing the public about what is happening in society. People get influenced by what is written in the newspapers, so it is very important that the information that is presented is objective and correct.

All the articles are written by various journalist, but the overall style is very similar because of the high quality of the work done by the newspaper. The spelling errors that were typical for Hangötidningen in the 1990s did not occur before that.

I have been inspired by previous research work and articles such as articles written by Anders Hansen from the Centre for Mass Communication Research of the University of

Leicester but I have developed own working methods due to the local nature of my project. (Hansen, 1991, p. 443)

## **1.1 Why I have done this**

I wanted to find out how the articles and their content have changed over the years. This may also help researchers in the future if they need this particular information. Hangö is my hometown and I have read Hangötidningen almost all my life. Many of the things mentioned in the articles still affect Hangö or are remembered by older people. Therefore, I have found this project very interesting and motivating. I hope that the information I have gathered will help other people doing similar projects or people that are just interested in the subject.

### **1.1.1 Hangötidningen**

I have chosen Hangö and Hangötidningen because this is where I live. The articles have a very local character and are all about the town of Hangö that is the southernmost town in Finland. During the the period that I am researching Hangö saw a rapid growth and many new inhabitants moved to Hangö because of the industrialization of Hangö. During this period Hangö grew in size from about 5000 inhabitants to over 10 000 inhabitants. (Wall, 2013, p. 13)

Hangötidningen was a local bilingual (Swedish and Finnish) daily newspaper published in the city of Hangö in Finland. The newspaper was founded in 1890 by Anders Kaustell and was published once a week, later every Thursday and Saturday. The newspaper has previously been published both as a three-day newspaper and a two-day newspaper. The newspaper received its most recent frequency with one publication per week in February 2009. The circulation amounted to approximately 2300 copies. The newspaper was printed at Salon Lehtitehdas in Salo and earlier by Hangö Tryckeri. Hangötidningen is a distinctly local newspaper and, as such, only has news material from Hangö. Bilingualism is consistently implemented, which means that virtually all editorial text is written in both Swedish and Finnish. However, this has not always been the case. At the beginning, the newspaper was monolingually Swedish. Over time, Finnish began to be used to a limited

extent. From 1991 onwards, the newspaper has been completely bilingual. The magazine has also been under many names since its inception. First, the newspaper was simply called Hangö. The magazine has also over the years had competition from several other local newspapers but none of those lasted for more than a few years. Hangötidningen has been owned since 1 November 2012 by the media group KSF Media. Previous owners include Förlags AB Lindan, Tryckeriföretaget Karprint Ky and Hangö Tryckeri- och Tidnings Ab. Hangötidningen was discontinued in 2020. (Wikström and Karlsson, 2018, p. 55)

### **1.1.2 The local environment**

The Hangö peninsula belongs to the Salpausselkä ridge. The flora is very rich, despite the fact that the vegetation mostly consists of dry sandy forest. Of the species, about fifty have been classified as some form of endangered plant species. Thanks to the lively shipping, many different species have been introduced to Hangö's nature. In sail ships, earth was often used as ballast. When the ships were loaded, the ballast was unloaded at the same time, and in this way new plants were introduced, some of which managed to adapt to the new nature in Hangö. The climate and the rare plants create a favorable environment even for endangered insects. There are several endangered and rare insect species in Hangö. The versatility of the nature can also be seen in the bird fauna. The first migratory birds that arrive in the spring come to Hangö, and during mild winters many species stay by the sea. You can often see migratory birds resting and fetching food on the sandy beaches, in the reeds and on the rocks. The southern beaches of Hangö are one of the best places on the south coast where you can see migratory birds. (Joensuu, 2008, p. 55)

## **2 Aim and research questions**

The goal is to find out how nature and the environment were portrayed in Hangötidningen between the years 1890 to 1977. What did they write about back then? How did it change over the years? Did specific problems appear in the newspaper during a period and then go away when the problem was solved? Were letters to the editor about this topic common and what kind of tone did they have? All articles from Hangötidningen have been published in the book series Hangö i tiden which I have studied.

### **3 Material and methods**

The following sections contains information about working methods and different categories. I have used both manual and digital methods when I have done my research and writing.

#### **3.1 Years and time periods**

I have separated the period into five different sections. 1890 to 1919, WW1 and Before. 1920 to 1939, Between the Wars. 1940 to 1948, WW2 and Immediately Afterwards. 1949 to 1958, The Rebuilding Period. 1959 to 1977, The 60s and the 70s.

Many of the periods are defined by major events that shaped the world and Hangö alike. The First World War is such an example, and it had a huge impact on society and the population. During those years the Russian army was stationed in Hangö and later during the communist rebellion Hangö was taken by the communists and later liberated by German troops. The Second World War was another major event that serves as major turning point for what is happening and how both Hangö and the world changed. During the Second World War both Russian and German troops were stationed in Hangö at different periods. Both WW2 dictators, Hitler and Stalin considered Hangö strategically important. After the Second World War there was a period when society had to be rebuilt and that demanded a more hands on approach. Later on, society recovered and began to prosper. This led to an increase in industrialization and construction. In the 1960s and 1970s there was a period of growth and prosperity. Many people bought their first television or car during those years. (Österman, 2018, p. 9)

The city was founded in 1874, a year after the town got a railway connection. The sea is kept ice-free at Hangö for most of the year, so the city could function as a winter port. The city's foundation letter was signed on February 12, 1878. The following year, 1879, a spa was opened in the city. Shortly afterwards, the city became a popular tourist destination among Russian elites. Several beautiful villas were built during this time in Hangö. An Orthodox church was also built. After Finland became independent in 1917, for natural reasons, the flow of Russian tourists to the city ceased. Between 1880 and 1930, more than 300,000 Finns emigrated to North America through Hangö. On April 3, 1918, the German Baltic Division landed with about 9000 men in Hanko, under the command of Major General

Count Rüdiger von der Goltz, in order to support the government in the ongoing Finnish Civil War. After the Finnish Winter War in 1940, Finland was forced to lease the Hangö peninsula and the city of Hangö to the Soviet Union as a naval base for 30 years. All of the population was evacuated. When the Continuation War broke out in 1941, the Hangö Front became the scene of numerous battles. The Swedish volunteer battalion played an important role in the front section. Due to hostilities, the Soviet Union withdrew its troops prematurely from the area. Late in the evening of December 2, 1941, the last Soviet warship left Hangö. During their presence, they had built a large airfield near the Täktom village. Hangö Flygklubb is currently active at what is left of the airfield. After the Continuation War, Finland was allowed to keep Hangö, the Soviet Union leased the Porkkala area instead. (Österman, 2018, p. 45)

### **3.2 Categories**

To be able to analyze which environmental related topics that have been covered through time in Hangötidningen I have classified the articles into different categories. I have defined 14 different categories depending on their content. 1 Observations. 2 Weather and Temperature. 3 Hunting and Fishing. 4 Opinions. 5 Planning and Management. 6 Disasters, Accidents and Pollution. 7 Boy Scouts. 8 Water Supply and Sewage. 9 Research. 10 Environmental Crimes. 11 Emissions. 12 Agriculture and Farmyard Animals. 13 Waste Management and 14 Miscellaneous.

The categories have been formed from the most common and important environmental news found in Hangötidningen. It is simply what they write about regarding the environment. The categories appeared in a natural way when I sorted the articles. The category miscellaneous is made up from all articles that do not fall in the other categories and also appear in very small numbers. Observations contains sightings of certain animals or plants; weather and temperature includes observations and reports about weather and temperature such as storms and daily temperature. Hunting and fishing is pretty self-describing and tells about e.g. moose hunting or fishermen and their work. Planning and management contains articles about just that and are done by the city or the government and typical examples are permissions for construction in previously natural areas or cases of management of the environment.

Disasters, accidents and pollution contains examples of such incidents that has happened in Hangö such as chemical spills or road accidents that caused oil polluting the local environment. Boy scouts is about scouting activity and their expeditions in the outdoors and their interest in the environment. Water supply and sewage contains articles about the aforementioned systems and their construction and maintenance by the city. Research is about visiting scientists and the activity at the Tvärminne Zoological Station. Environmental crimes contains articles about such activities in Hangö, a good example is the dumping of barrels containing poison in the sea. The emissions category focuses on the industrial emissions from the factories and their regulation of industrial emissions. Agriculture and farmyard animals contains articles about the rural parts of Hangö and the farmers. Waste management contains all articles about waste and its disposal.

The classes describe exactly what they say they are. They were created because this is what is found in Hangötidningen during those years. They are of great interest because they show what is being written during the periods. The category Boy Scouts exists because it is the only nature related organization that frequently figure in the articles. The number of articles about them also shows that the reporters of the time were very interested in their activities.

### **3.3 Classification method**

I have read all titles and singled out all articles related to nature or the environment. I have written down everything in a notebook with years, names and page numbers. After the categorization I calculated the percentage of each category. After that I created pie charts with Excel.

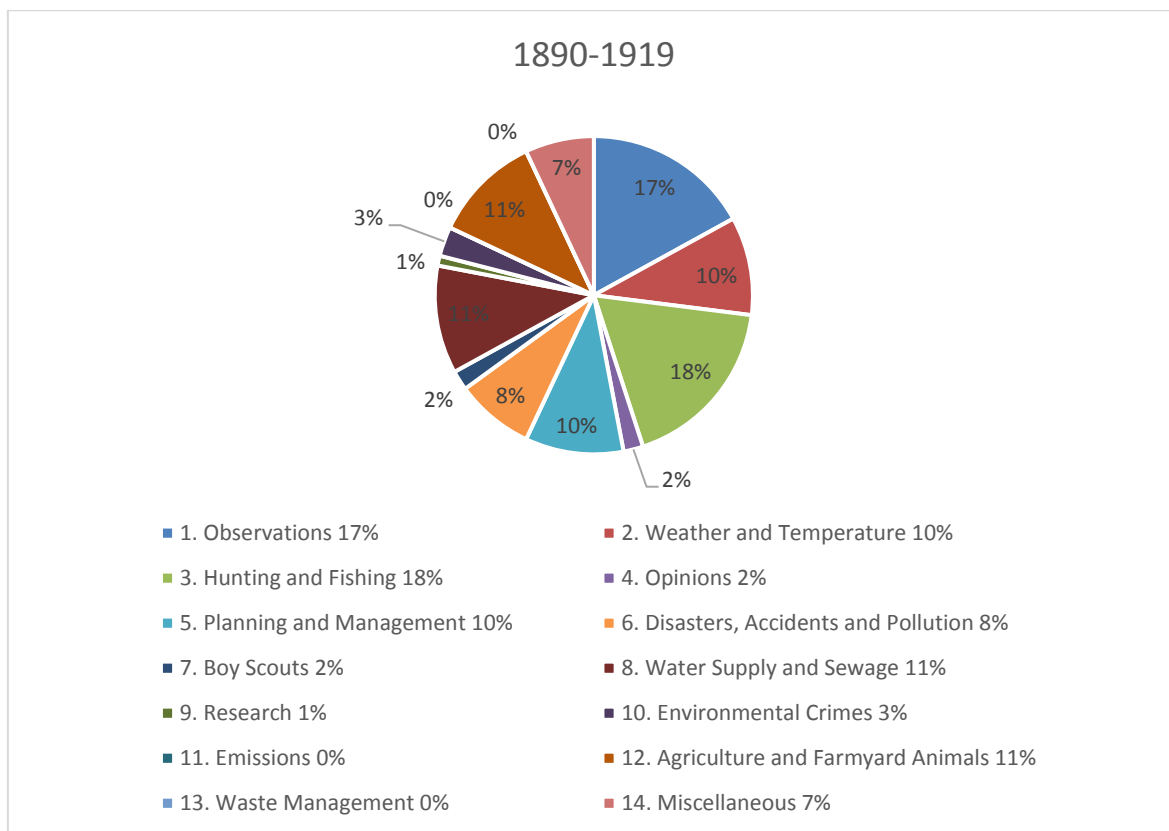
I have manually checked all of the books for articles about nature or the environment based on the headlines. If it was not clear what the article was about, I started to read it until I found out about the subject. I placed every environmental article into a predetermined category depending on the content. I wrote down all the information in my notebook and then with the help of my calculator I found out the percentage of every category during a specific time period. The books contain only the articles from Hangötidningen, and all other material has been removed. Because of the unregular publishing of the newspaper over

the years it is not possible to compare the number of articles in a reliable way. Therefore, have I done all the comparisons in percentage.

## 4 Results

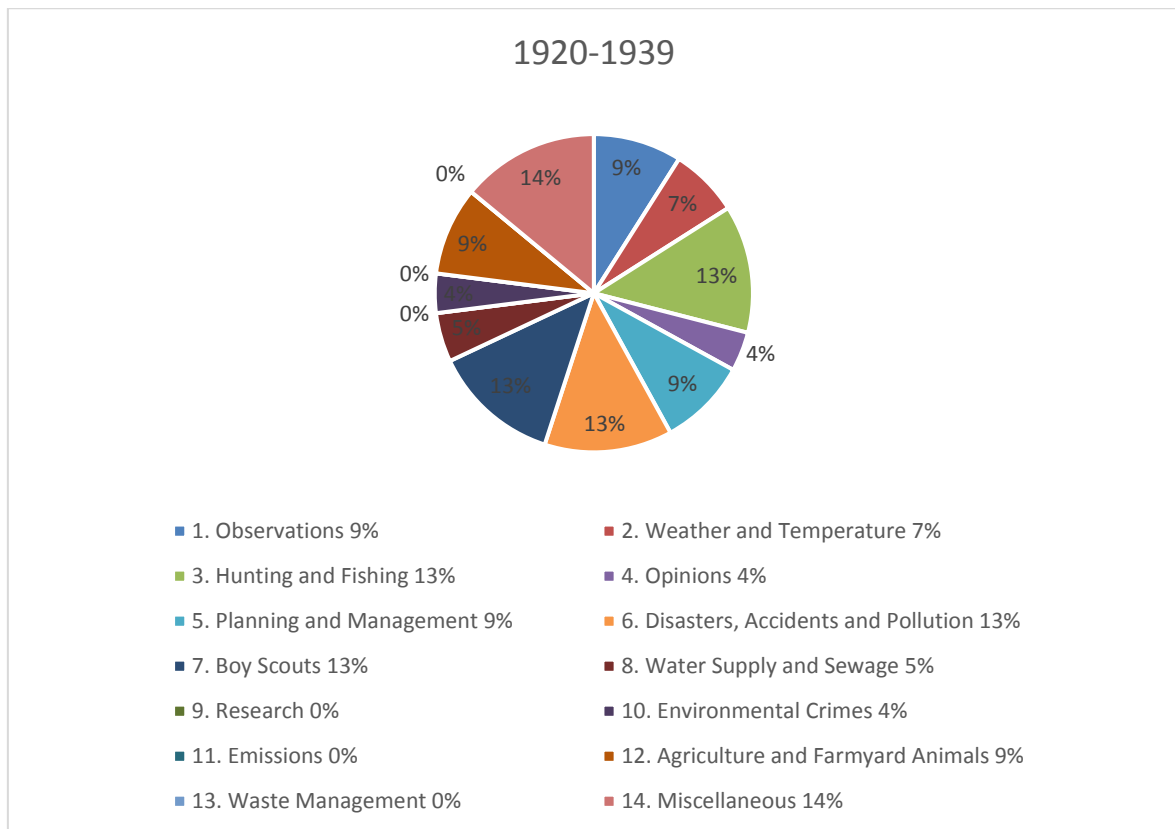
I found 167 articles related to the environment and nature in Hangötidningen during the time period 1890-1919, that is 6 percent of the total number of articles. I found 55 articles related to the environment and nature in Hangötidningen during the time period 1920-1939, that is 4 percent of the total number of articles. I found 41 articles related to the environment and nature in Hangötidningen during the time period 1940-1948, that is 2 percent of the total number of articles. I found 56 articles related to the environment and nature in Hangötidningen during the time period 1949-1958, that is 3 percent of the total number of articles. I found 261 articles related to the environment and nature in Hangötidningen during the time period 1959-1977, that is 2.5 percent of the total number of articles.

The pie charts include years and category percentage representing the balance between different subjects. In 1890 to 1919 the category hunting and fishing was the most popular with 18 percent (Fig.1). In 1920 to 1939 the category miscellaneous was the most popular with 14 percent (Fig.2). In 1940 to 1948 the category agriculture and farmyard animals was the most popular with 29 percent (Fig.3). In 1949 to 1958 the category boy scouts was the most popular with 39 percent (Fig.4). In 1959 to 1977 the categories boy scouts and planning and management were the most popular with 17 percent each (Fig.5).



*Fig. 1 The pie charts show the percentage of the different categories, 1890-1919*

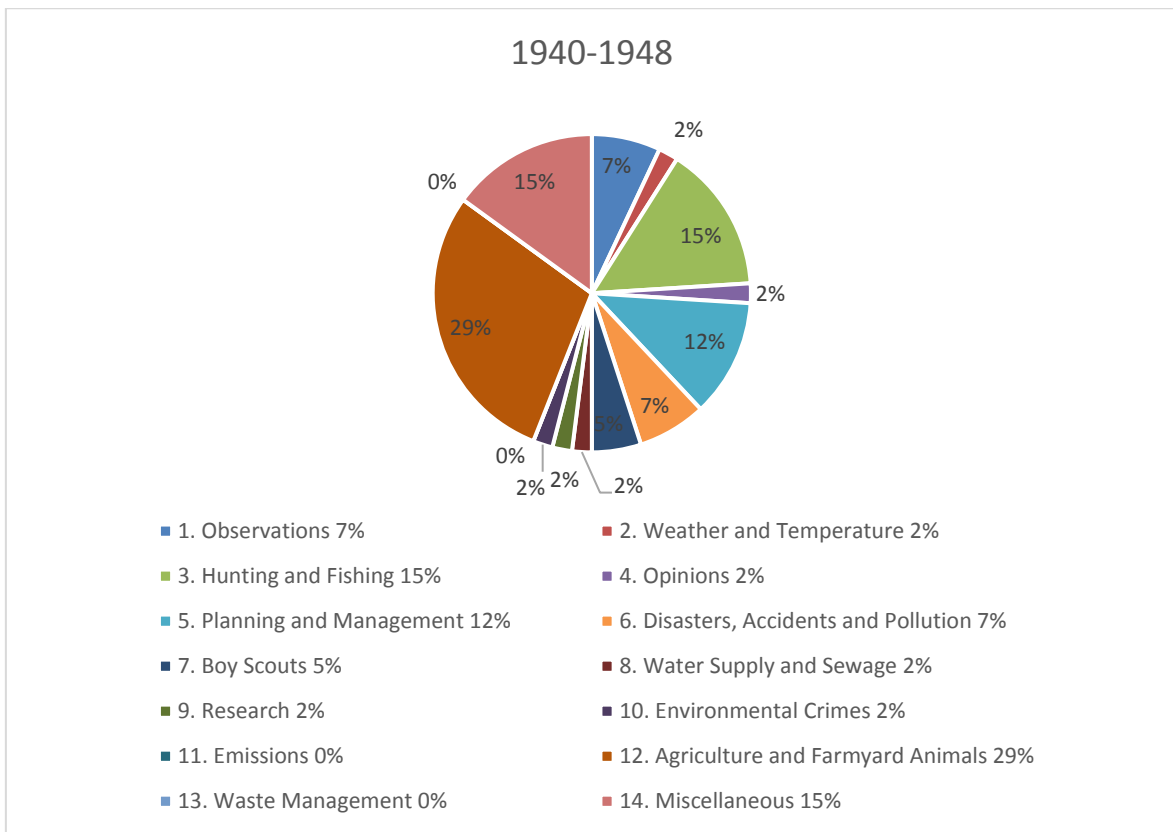
In the early years they did not write much about industrial emissions (Fig. 1) and the subjects were pretty equally distributed. In later periods the results will not be so equally distributed as some themes are very popular at certain times.



*Fig. 2 The pie charts show the percentage of the different categories, 1920-1939*

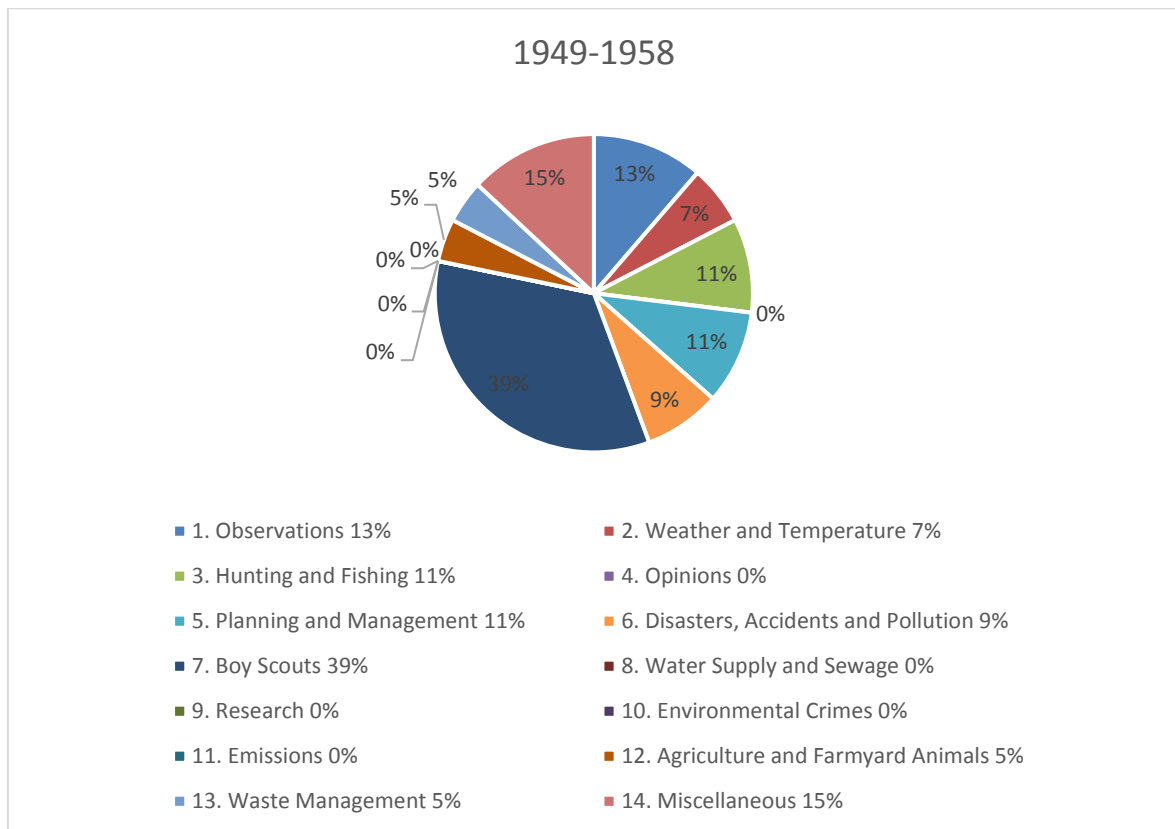
In the 1920s and 1930s they wrote about many different subjects. (Fig. 2) When Soviet Russia attacked Finland in 1939 it also impacted how people viewed the environment. During Russian bombing raids people used the snow as cover by wearing white clothing or dressing buildings in white camouflage material. People also became more interested in natural products as substitute for manufactured ones. (Karlsson, 2003, p. 9)

When the communists left Hangö they had poisoned some of the wells and the city was infested with rats (Karlsson, 2003, p. 220).



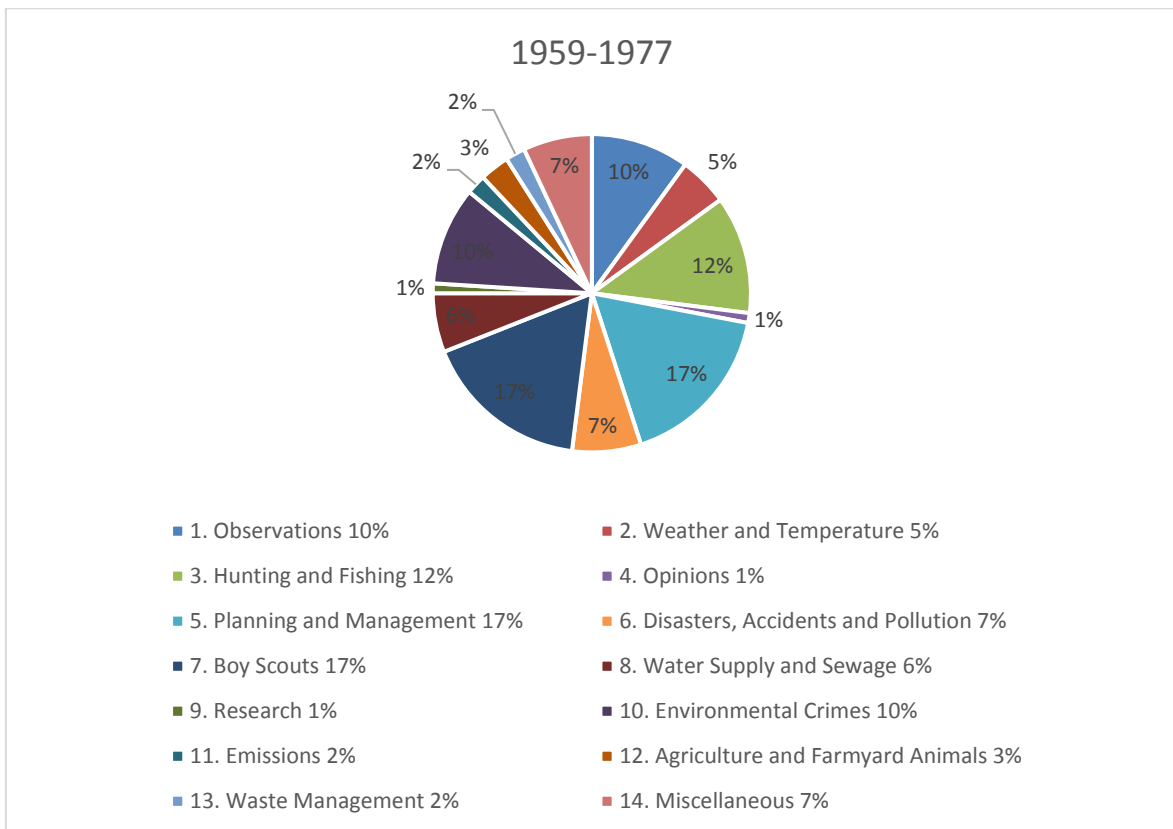
*Fig. 3 The pie charts show the percentage of the different categories, 1940-1948*

In the 1940s they wrote many articles about farming and farmyard animals. The share of that category is 29 percent. Hunting and fishing were also popular subjects with 15 percent of the total. During this period there were no articles about waste management and also no articles about emissions. In this period, they started to write about the Boy Scouts, five percent of the articles are about the Boy Scouts. (Fig. 3)



*Fig. 4 The pie charts show the percentage of the different categories, 1949-1958*

Scouting was a very popular subject in the 1950s (Fig. 4). It was also popular later, but it reached its peak popularity in the 1950s. In the second half of the 1970s it started to lose popularity.

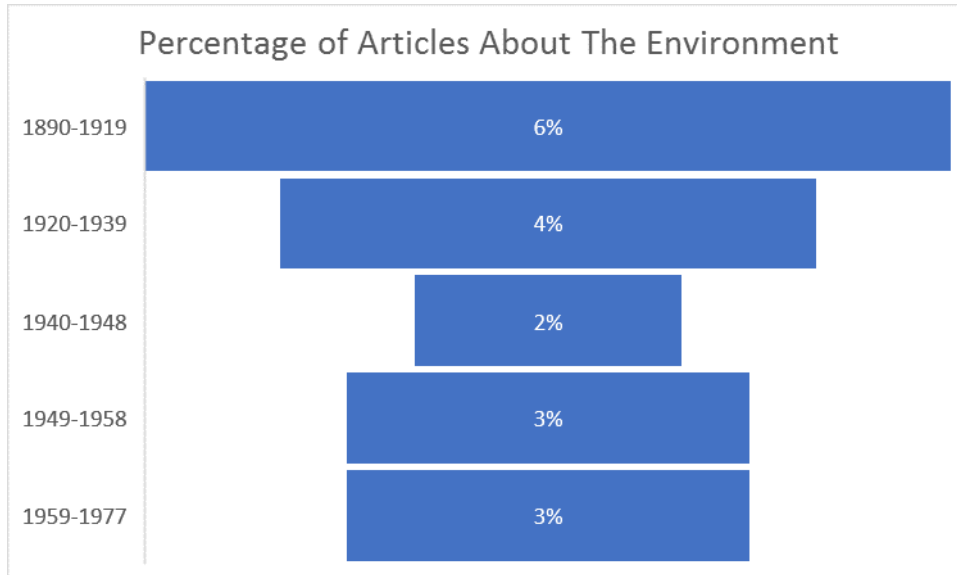


*Fig. 5 The pie charts show the percentage of the different categories, 1959-1977*

In the early years we see a lot about observations (Karlsson, 1993, p. 96), agriculture (Karlsson, 1995, p. 270) and hunting (Karlsson, 1993, p. 76) but also a several articles about planning (Karlsson, 1993, p. 158) and accidents (Karlsson, 1997, p. 63). When we move forward in time we see more of articles about industrial emissions and environmental protection (Karlsson, 2021, p. 163). Many of the letters to the editor published by Hangötidningen are written by people worried about that the environment will be damaged by certain activities (Karlsson, 2019, p. 97). We see a huge drop in agricultural content after Second World War (Fig. 3, Fig. 4). What is seen as good management of the environment has changed a lot over the years (Karlsson, 2017, p. 323). Some species that were seen as vermin in the early 1900s became protected in the 60s and 70s (Karlsson, 1993, p. 80). Articles about environmental crime are very similar throughout the whole period (Fig. 1, Fig. 2, Fig. 3, Fig. 4, Fig. 5) and law breaking is understandably seen as a bad thing.

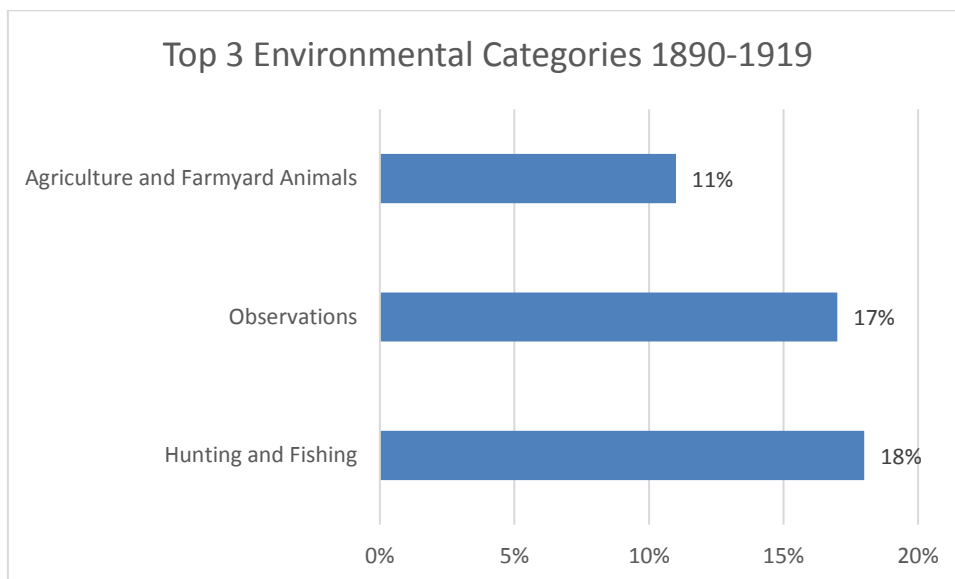
In the 70s many articles were written about the dumping of barrels with toxic chemicals on land and in the sea (Karlsson, 2019, p. 255). People were also worried about the possible Neste oil refinery in Tvärminne (Karlsson, 2019, p. 85). Even some hotel building plans in

Täktom got attention of the media (Karlsson, 2019, p. 184). Similar airport plans in Täktom were also the subject of many articles (Karlsson, 2019, p. 204). The local environmental organizations were very worried about pollution from the Visko sausage casing plant (Karlsson, 2019, p. 314).



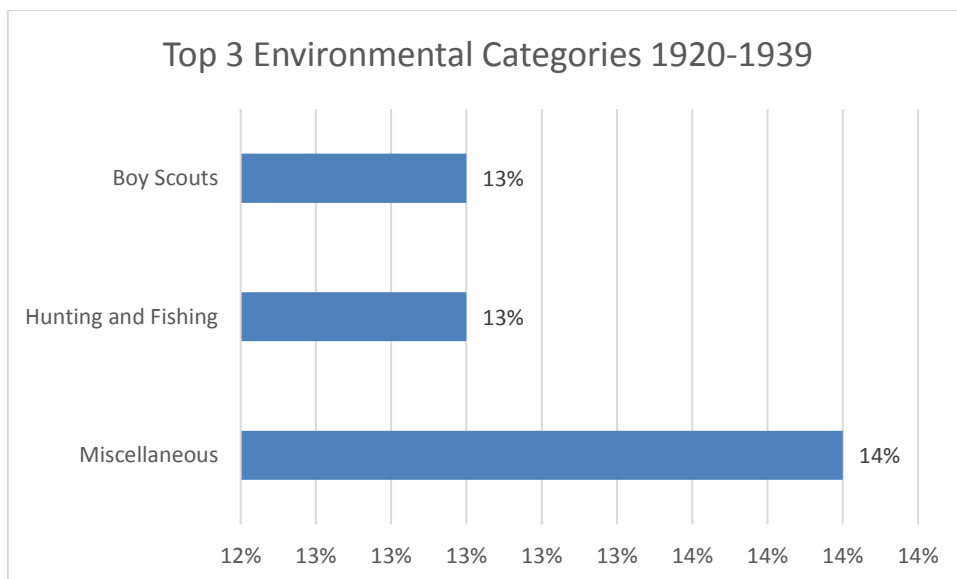
*Fig. 6 Percentage of articles about the environment*

In the late 1800s and early 1900s the percentage of environmental articles was the highest (Fig. 6) because Hangö was more rural back then (Winberg, 1994, p. 9). Since then the amount has hovered around 2-4% in the more modern industrial and urbanized Hangö.



*Fig. 7 Top three environmental categories 1890-1919*

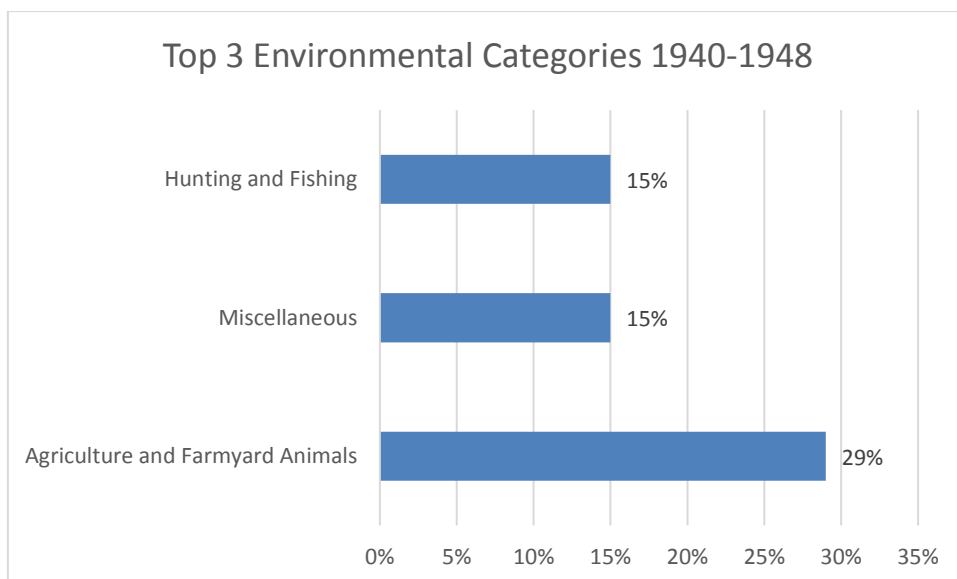
In the early days articles about rural life and farming were very common. Observations of species also made the headlines several times. The same goes for hunting and fishing. (Fig. 7)



*Fig. 8 Top three environmental categories 1920-1939*

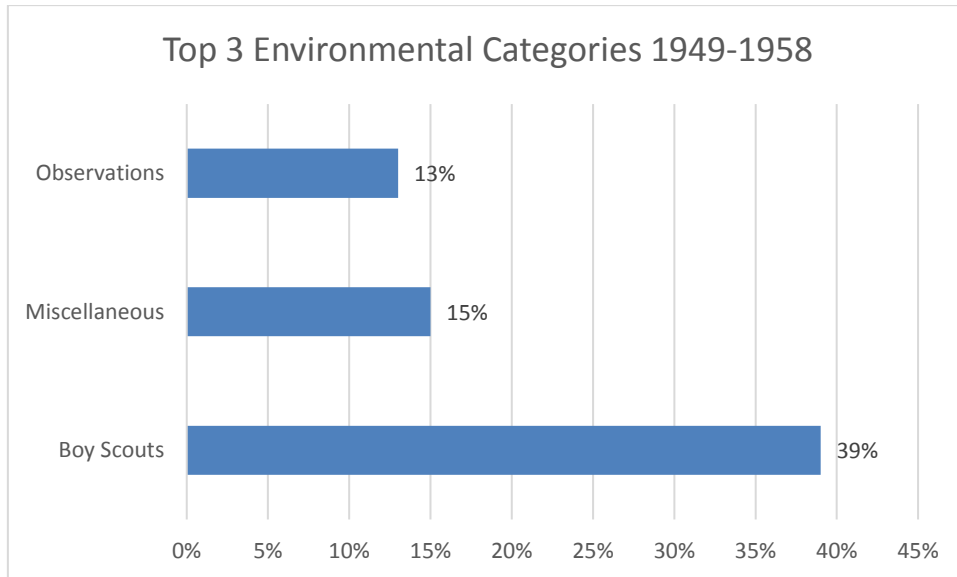
Scouting activities started to become popular in the early 1900s. (Fig. 8). This continued in the following decades. When Participation fell that also had a negative effect on the number of scouting articles in Hangötidningen.

Due to the location of Hangö hunting and fishing have often been in the headlines. When Hangö became more urbanized and industrialized issues such as hunting, fishing and agriculture started to decrease while subjects such as planning gained more interest.



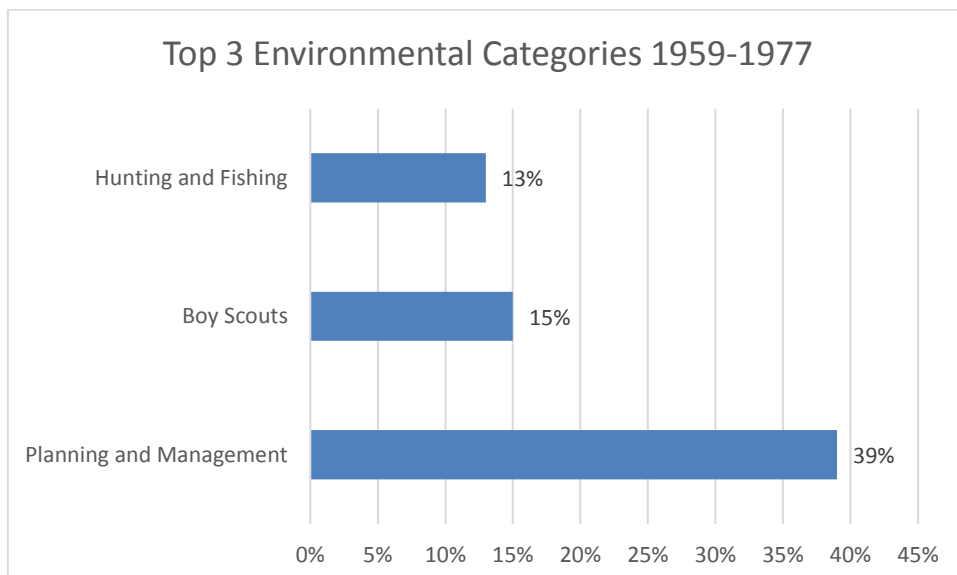
*Fig. 9 Top three environmental categories 1940-1948*

During the Second World War there was a focus on food production and agriculture (Fig.9). The same goes for hunting and fishing.



*Fig. 10 Top three environmental categories 1949-1958*

Scouting was very popular in the 1950s. (Fig. 10) May observations of different species still made the headlines.



*Fig. 11 Top three environmental categories 1959-1977*

Due to the rapid growth of the city planning and management became more important in the 1960s and 1970s (Fig. 11). This is one of the few really big changes in regard to new

categories making the headlines in a big fashion. Other topics such as research and emissions also appear more during the later years but only in smaller numbers.

#### **4.1 Big events that have shaped the reporting**

In the late 1800s there were many articles about hunting. If someone shot a seal or a bird it was an important and interesting event that often made the headlines (Karlsson, 1993, p. 3). Especially harbor porpoises were targeted if they appeared near the city (Karlsson, 1993, p. 80).

In the early 1900s the big issues were sewers and water supply because the city was growing rapidly due to industrialization. Many such articles were published in *Hangötidningen* during those years. In the 1920s several outbreaks of rabies caused widespread panic and many articles were written about that subject (Karlsson, 1999, p. 21). During the Second World War they wrote many articles about how nature and the environment influenced daily life during the war (Karlsson, 2003, p. 9). Recycling was also a popular subject during the war because of the shortage of materials (Karlsson, 2003, p. 337).

In the late 1940s a very intensive reporting about scouting started and it continued until the early 1970s (Karlsson, 2007, p. 183). In the 1950s city planning and expansion were popular subjects due to the increasing population and the establishing of many new businesses (Karlsson, 2009, p. 53).

In the early 1960s there was a temporary water shortage in Hangö that made the headlines several times (Karlsson, 2013, p. 347). In the late 1960s a planned canal through the Tulludden peninsula generated many articles (Karlsson, 2017, p. 329) and a predominantly negative response that eventually led to the cancellation of the project (Karlsson, 2019, p. 6). The fate of the planned oil refinery in Tvärminne was very similar to that of the canal (Karlsson, 2017, p.325).

In the early 1970s the emissions from the Visko sausage casing plant was a very hot topic and the local residents were very vocal about the subject (Karlsson, 2019, p. 183). The single most written about incident in the 1970s was the dumping of barrels filled with

poisonous chemicals originating from Sako in many different places all around Hangö (Karlsson, 2019, p. 278).

## **4.2 Portrayal of the Environment Outside Hangö**

On a global scale the number of environmental articles has increased since the 1960s in Western Europe and North America. Some topics have been popular for a shorter period of time while others have been more consistent in appearance over the years. Some were pure environmental articles while others were more connected to the usage of natural resources. (Lyytimäki, 2012, p. 28)

Meanwhile in Hangötidningen global trends and problems are not mentioned unless they also happen in Hangö because of the local news only policy in Hangötidningen. The citizens of Hangö read other newspapers for national and international news. Many families have two newspapers, Hangötidningen for local news and Hufvudstadsbladet or Helsingin Sanomat for national and international news. When I grew up all my friend's families also did this, all my relatives and my family also did it. The Finland Swedes read Hufvudstadsbladet and the Finns read Helsingin Sanomat while both groups read Hangötidningen which in later years included all articles translated into Finnish. (Holmström, 2000, p. 36)

With water on three sides Hangö is almost like an island and that also affects how outside problems affect Hangö and how people react to them.

## **4.3 Comparison with Present Day Reporting About Nature and the Environment**

Today the environment is a very popular subject in the newspapers and articles. In the past local issues and problems were the basis for most articles but today global trends like climate change get the most headlines. While environmental news in the past were mostly informative to their nature (see chapter 4) nowadays the environmental articles have often a very negative tone and have been accused of spreading fear and hopelessness. Some of the more recent articles also have a slightly political undertone and also written not only to inform but also to increase the influence of the authors. But on the positive side people seem more willing to discuss environmental problems nowadays. (Lyytimäki, 2012, p.30)

## 5 Discussion

When my material is from Hangötidningen it is possible that the results may have been influenced by the personal preferences of the reporters and the management because of the size of the newspaper and the small number of staff working for them. Sometimes there is only one reporter working and then that person had to prioritize what he or she covered. Because of the small size of the Hangö peninsula it is also not possible to see all worldwide trends in this very small sample. And because almost all articles report on local news global issues are automatically not included. In some cases, newspapers have political or ideological preferences and that may influence the number of environmental articles, this is not the case when it comes to Hangötidningen because they only report on what is happening and do not follow ideological guidelines or try to influence people. With more resources more analyses could have been made also with material from other cities and regions. If I or someone else wants to continue working with this, it is possible to broaden the area of research or to go more into specific subjects or details. I hope other people will enjoy reading my thesis and that the results and information will be useful for others doing similar work.

Other researchers have found similar results: *“Contrary to widespread conception, environmental issues were commonly debated in public already over a hundred years ago. Based on an extensive newspaper study this paper concentrates on water management and animal welfare issues in the local newspapers in the city of Turku, Finland, in 1890–1950. At the time, the role of the newspapers was important in shaping public understanding of environmental issues. Although the amount of environment-related writing remained scarce in comparison to today's media, the debate was continuous and sometimes even fierce. Both environmental protection and animal welfare received very positive comments in the press and they were considered important aims.”* (Lahtinen and Vuorisalo, 2005, p.9). The environment was not only discussed in Hangö but also in other towns and cities.

Before the industrialization Hangö was more rural (Holmström, 2000, p. 34) and I believe this to be the reason for the higher percentage of environmental articles in the earlier years. My grandmother grew up on a farm in Täktom just outside Hangö and when she was young her father quit farming and started assembling mines for the nearby explosives factory instead. When the war started, he did not have to go to the front because of his

expertise in manufacturing explosives. I believe this to be the case for many locals, switching from agriculture to more industrial jobs.

Some of the events portrayed in the newspaper in the past are still relevant in Hangö today. The poison filled barrels are still talked about today and people are worried that there could be more of them somewhere on the sea floor. If that is the case, they could become a huge environmental problem when corrosion has eaten through the metal that the barrels are made of. It is not uncommon to still hear people talk about the barrels and my relatives still remember the boat that belonged to the perpetrator going back and forth from the harbor to the archipelago.

Many other events are also remembered, especially by older people that lived during that time. My grandmother is still talking about big scouting events that she remembers from her youth. Also, the issues related to city planning and construction are still relevant today because they influence the daily life in Hangö and form the basis for future development and city planning.

Hangötidning was a very respected newspaper in Hangö and the number one source for local news for most people in Hangö. During those years almost all people read Hangötidningen.

## **6 Conclusion**

Current events and problems have a huge influence on what has been written in Hangötidningen over the years. When water supply and sewage was a problem in a growing city in the early 1900s this made the headlines several times. During the wars food supply and agriculture were important subjects because of the food shortage during those years. In general, the tone they write about the environment is most often very positive and you get the feeling that they like their local environment. This is especially seen in letters to the editor over the years.

Some species such as harbor porpoises and certain bird species were earlier seen as pests and problems. Today the same species are very much liked in environmental circles. In the

early years many articles were written about farming, fishing and hunting but when the city grew bigger the articles tended to be more about planning, management and protection.

Many articles about the Boy Scouts were published up until the late 1970s. During those years many children participated in scouting activities and therefore the press was interested. When participation fell the newspaper lost interest in their activities. During the wars not much was written about the environment except for agricultural articles and articles about how to use the snow as cover during Russian bombing raids.

In the early years observations and environmental oddities got much attention. I get the feeling that people were in general more interested in such information back then. In the 60s and 70s there is more concern about how projects and plans will affect the environment and certain species. In a peculiar way I find the tone in the older articles more honest. Even though I do not always agree with their opinions on a personal level they often tell the reader exactly what they think instead of using fancy words and political correctness.

In the 60s plans to build a shipping canal through the Tulludden Peninsula caused an uproar among the local population and the plans had to be cancelled (Karlsson, 2013, p. 308). The impact of local industry and their land use was also a recurring subject (Karlsson, 2017, p. 117).

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