

STANWOOD AREA ECHOES

Newsletter of the Stanwood Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 69
27108 102nd Ave NW
Stanwood, WA 98292
www.sahs-fncc.org



Stanwood Area Echoes

Issue No. 53 : Winter, 2017

STANWOOD ON THE STILLAGUAMISH RIVER IN 1948



An aerial photograph looking south towards Stanwood's Stillaguamish River waterfront taken on July 17, 1948 by J. Boyd Ellis. The farm property of O. H. Matterand can be seen across the river. The river forks to the west flowing into Port Susan to the south and Skagit Bay to the northwest. (*A story on the changes planned for the Matterand property recently acquired by the Stillaguamish Tribe is on page four.*)

Stanwood also lost two significant civic leaders that summer of 1948: former Mayor Charles Dockendorf and former City Clerk Clyde Tolin. The close friends died within hours of each other in June. Tolin had resigned his post following Dockendorf's

decision not to run for re-election due to health problems. Both had served their community for more than 25 years.

Stanwood was strapped with considerable debt when both assumed their offices in 1922. The Dockendorf administration paid off the debt and expanded city services including a new fire system, city hall, ornamental street lights, blocks of new street paving and a larger sewer system. They were also instrumental in planning and securing funding for the Mark Clark Bridge connecting the city with Camano Island. The bridge was constructed a year after their deaths.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends:

The year 2016 will certainly go down as a year of transition and challenges—nationally as well as on a smaller scale. This includes the office of president of the Stanwood Area Historical Society. I know I speak for all SAHS membership when I thank retiring president Gail Ryer for her years of commitment to this Society and especially as president for the past four years. Her service is greatly appreciated.

I was surprised but pleased to accept the position as the new president of the SAHS. As stewards of the amazing complex of buildings, including two on the historic register, the Historical Society holds vast potential for not only preserving the stories and artifacts that make up the area's history but as an important partner in a changing Stanwood. Plans are moving forward on the Ovenell and Hamilton Parks and subsequent requirements for accurate interpretations of this community's historical past. No agency can do that better than the Stanwood Area Historical Society.

But challenges are only met if there are willing, committed people to meet them. The SAHS is always eager to welcome new interested volunteers. Over the past few months we have been lucky enough to gain the services of three new volunteers in particular: Lenni Corser, an energetic and talented student of history, who in period clothing, often greets visitors at our Pearson House as Clara Stanwood Pearson; Cheryl Malmstead who despite the demands of her regular job, gives of her time to help organize and work SAHS events and is looking to further assist in our educational programs; and Daniela Tierra, a gifted student at Skagit Community College considering museum studies as her goal, who is our newest board member.

Whether our newest volunteers or those members who have labored for years to give back to their community through their involvement with the SAHS, this organization cannot survive without them. We thank them all for the hard work as caretakers of our facility and gatekeepers to the treasures that lie within.

Challenges, and the inherent changes which naturally occur because of them, can be daunting but

exciting as well. The Floyd Norgaard Cultural Center is gaining steadily in popularity as a venue second to none in the area. Research Wednesdays have begun to catch on for those seeking information on family or this area's history in general.

The SAHS will soon be breaking ground for a Veterans Community Memorial for our courtyard honoring those local heroes who perished in America's conflicts. Continuing programs such as the popular History and Hors d'oeuvres speaker series and concerts such as the entertaining South End String Band or the amazing Jeffrey Cohan Quartet are worth marking on your calendars. A new event this year will debut March 25th and 26th—the History Sites Weekend Tour which will include The Floyd and various sites of historic interest around Camano Island. The Floyd will be a welcome center to collect information and provide directions to participating sites as well as offering our own historical and cultural attractions to visitors. Tours of the facility will also be available and you can even enjoy a bowl of homemade soup before beginning the island trek.

So if it's been a while, think about a visit to the Stanwood Area Historical Society. You might find it a great place of possibilities as we do.

Sincerely,

Richard Hanks, President

Stanwood Area Historical Society

ATTENTION! OUR MEETINGS HAVE CHANGED

**SAHS Board & Member Meetings -
Second Tuesday afternoons at 3:00 pm
in the second floor of the museum.
Everyone is welcome!**



"Like" us on
facebook

CAMANO HISTORIC SITES TOUR • MARCH 25-26, 2017

Stop by The Floyd and pick up a map to visit Washington's beautiful Camano Island historic sites.

#1 Camano Lutheran Church 1906

In 1895 services were held at the Livingston Bay school, which was located across the road. It was moved to this site and is now Pioneer Hall. Construction of this church began in 1904 and the dedication was July 9, 1906. *WA Heritage Register*

#2 Camano Pioneer Cemetery

Camano Island's early settlers and some Native Americans are buried here.

#3 Kristoferson Farm

The barn was built in 1914 from Douglas Fir milled on site. Kristoferson Barn has been the hub of farm operations for the Kristoferson family for over 100 years. *Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2012.*

#4 South Camano Grange 1930

South Camano Grange #930 was organized Jan. 18, 1930 by O.C. Wisner. It is a family-friendly organization that promotes family values. Service to the community is the backbone of the Grange.

#5 Mabana Schoolhouse 1916

Built by loggerman, Peg Leg Anderson, it embodied the community's spirit for a better life. Used as a school, meeting place and church. Pearl Wanamaker, the first teacher, was active in Washington politics. Now an artist studio for Linda Demetre.

#6 Camano Island State Park 1949

A community initiated and supported park. In 1949 ninety two acres of land was acquired for a park. The initial development was accomplished in one day by nearly 500 public spirited volunteers from Stanwood and Camano.

#7 Cama Beach Historical State Park 1934

Cama Beach a 1930s-era fishing resort complete with waterfront cedar cabins and bungalows. Muriel and Lee Risk operated Cama Beach Resort for 55 years. In 1990 the Risk daughters acted to turn the property into a state park. *Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2001.*

#8 Camano Island Inn 1923

The Camano Island Inn served log millers, their families and other boarders. Guests from around the world have enjoyed the Inn and its precious view of Saratoga Passage. The building has changed with the times. The great view remains the same. Today it is a farm to table restaurant, a beautiful inn & spa.

#9 Camano City Schoolhouse 1906

This one room schoolhouse served students of the rapidly growing mill town of Camano City. It was used as a school until 1936. Then it served as a community hall, home to the Fire Department and Sparklers auxiliary. Sold in 2012 to the Camano Schoolhouse Foundation. *Listed on the WA Heritage Register 2014.*

#10 Utsalady Historic Vista Point

The sign describes the community of Utsalady. Ship spars were first cut here in 1853. A lumber mill was built in 1856, beginning production in 1857. The town boomed with Camano's first school. Lumber was exported in 1860. By 1893 sailing ships carried daily production of 74,000 bd/ft to world markets.

#11 Utsalady Ladies Aid 1908

It is the second oldest organization in Island County. The building was constructed in 1923 for \$566.73. It is a symbol of community spirit and unity for those living on Camano Island. *Listed on the WA Heritage & National Registers of Historic Places since 1998.*

#12 English Boom

The English Logging Co. logged forests east of Stanwood and Mount Vernon in the 1920's & 30's. Here they gathered logs into booms for towing to Puget Sound mills. Pilings are all that remain from the operation which closed in 1945.

www.CamanoHistoricSites.com

Stanwood Area Historical Society Effective January 1, 2017

OFFICERS TERM (2Yr)

President	Richard Hanks	2017-2018
Vice President	Dan Lien	2016-2017
Recording Secretary	John Smistad	2017-2018
Corresponding Secretary	Margaret Utgard	2016-2017
Treasurer	Dave Eldridge	2016-2017
Past President	Gail Ryer	

TRUSTEES TERM (3Yr)

Penny Buse		2016-2018
Louis Stangeland		2016-2018
Janet Mayer		2017-2019
Sandy Robinson		2017-2019
Margaret Utgard		2015-2017
Pat Bronson		2015-2017
Clifford Larson		2015-2017
Mary Margaret Haugen		2015-2017
Alex Gedstad	Honorary Trustee	
Daniela Tierra	Youth Representative	

Newsletter Editors Richard and Robin Hanks

SHOVELS, SWEDES AND ZIS-A-BA

Just south of Stanwood across the Stillaguamish River is the former Matterand farm, a property with a storied past. Transformation of that landscape is expected to begin in the summer of 2017 by the Stillaguamish Tribe who recently purchased 107 acres now renamed Zis-a-Ba after a Stillaguamish headman of the mid-1800s. Alteration of the diking system is expected a year later once funding is in place. The land will be converted again into a flood plain and estuary meant to support and feed migrating salmon. The estuary will also protect lands which hold special tribal significance for many Stillaguamish Indians.

Ole S. Matterand bought the acreage after coming to the Stanwood flats in the fall of 1877. His son Haakon later created a ship building yard along the river. But before the farmer's plow rendered the soil, and craftsmen transformed wood and steel into floating workplaces, it was sacred land to local Natives as a burial site for the most respected of their people. Ole S. Matterand homesteaded the property after purchasing it from Gardner Goodridge who claimed the land at the mouth of the river in 1865. Matterand began diking the land and clearing it of the spruce and alder which inundated the vicinity. Ole and Haakon diked miles of acres changing the face of the tidal lands around Stanwood. Haakon Matterand recounted the laborious "spade-and-elbow-grease method" to a reporter in 1962, saying that all was accomplished "with shovels and Swedes."

Ole Matterand was typical of the restless young men who left Norway in the latter part of the 19th century. In 1868, at the age of 21, he was part of a first wave of immigrants reacting to changing labor conditions in Norway and the transition to a mercantilist nation increasing unemployment. Many young men of his generation sought other options for a livelihood.

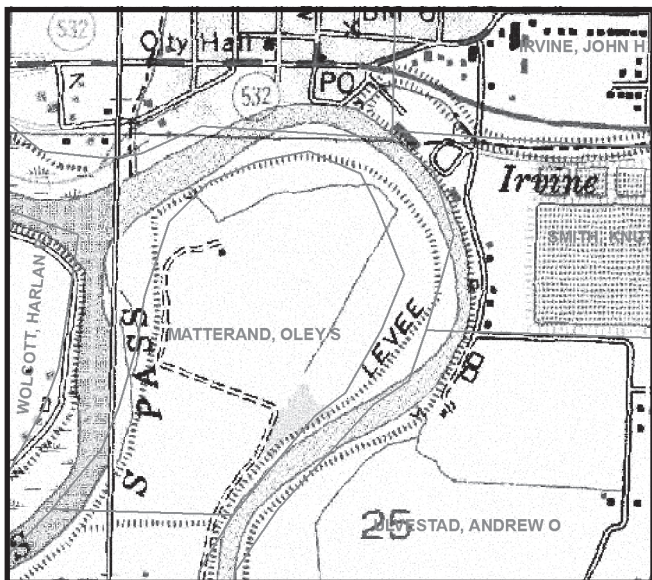
Ole's first job after arriving in the U. S. was the grueling work of a Chicago stevedore. In short order he worked as a logger in nearby forests of Wisconsin but by the fall of 1868 had moved to Wyoming with the Union Pacific Railroad which was laying track to complete the first transcontinental railroad in the U.S. He turned to prospecting in the spring of 1869 and followed the circuit of mining camps throughout the Southwest. Probably from necessity he took employment as a carpenter in San Francisco in the winter of 1870 which drew him back into logging in the wilds of northern California and Washington Territory. In 1875 he returned to Norway

and married Emelia Gustad. By the fall of 1877 he and Emilia reportedly accompanied the family of Nels Eide to the lowlands around Stanwood (then called Centerville). The rich silt-infused soil proved very productive and his farm flourished. He also kept a small herd of Durham cattle on its pastures.

However, the continual presence of Native Americans, principally Stillaguamish, proved a nuisance to Ole as it had been to Goodridge. Goodridge's first marriage in 1871 was to a Stillaguamish woman named Polly, granddaughter of a Stillaguamish leader. His property was noted on early maps as the site of an Indian camp. Just above the water line of the tidal plain, specially carved red cedar canoes laid notched into the branches of a towering tree that held the honored dead of Stillaguamish upper class leadership families. Goodridge reportedly gave the Indians three days to remove their dead. Such a demand violated ancient Native traditions but some bodies were taken away by the Stillaguamish and interred. Upset with the slow progress, Goodridge responded by throwing some remains in the river and burning the rest. Threats of armed violence drove indignant Stillaguamish away. By many accounts, Goodridge's initial insensitivity changed over time and he became known in the area as someone whose home and hospitality were open to all travelers, Native or white.

Matterand's adjoining property also had remains of Stillaguamish resting in a large spruce tree. His son Haakon spoke of Indians coming to their farm and spending up to a week gathered near their dead. Haakon said his father tired of seeing that tree and its coffins as he milked his cows and demanded their removal as Goodridge had done. The Stillaguamish were again reticent but began reluctantly to meet Matterand's demands. Years later Haakon Matterand remembered that his father, dissatisfied with the effort, "put a lot of blasting powder on the tree and set it on fire and burned up the whole thing." This time it was Matterand's known ability with a rifle that prevented Stillaguamish anger from becoming violent.

A more detailed account of the episode on Matterand's property is given by famed naturalist and lay historian Nels Bruseth who interviewed Ole Matterand around 1910. The large Indian cemetery was in a grove on the eastern part of Matterand's land close to the Native campsite on Goodridge's farm across a finger of the Stillaguamish River which separated them. After "considerable parlay," a small



armada of Stillaguamish canoes arrived to witness the grim task which would be carried out by “two very old” Natives. Other tribal members conducted ceremony probably meant to mitigate the negative consequences of the dead’s disturbance and removal. Bruseth offered two explanations for the participation of the Native “couple” (presumably man and wife): either because it was “a sacred office that none but the oldest and most venerable could perform,” or they were chosen “on account of the dangers of it. . . . Being old and not worth much,” he mused, “if they should suffer injury or death, there wasn’t much lost.” When the Stillaguamish had removed what dead they could to their canoes they departed up the river. Matterand remembered that the “noise” they made “was awful.” However, a number of canoe/caskets remained in their funeral perches. “Of these that didn’t go up in smoke in the big bon fires went into the river and down to the bay,” wrote Bruseth. Bruseth believed the tree burials a health hazard but condemned the desecration of an Indian cemetery near Trafton, Washington where a roadway had plowed through gravesites of Natives buried the “Boston way” as practiced by whites. “The Indian certainly has a right to enough land for a graveyard in the Stillaguamish Valley,” he wrote, while wishing “that those guilty should have had some kind of punishment.”

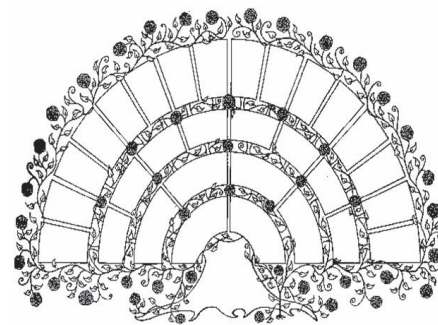
Ole Matterand farmed the property until 1920. He moved to Portland where he died in 1925. Son Haakon, born in 1881 on the family farm, became renown in the area as a pile driver, boat builder and tugboat operator. His nine horsepower,

twenty-six footer *Merrimaid* was one of the first power boats on the Stillaguamish. He built the twin-screw tug *Gordon T* for the English Logging Company. The famous lone mariner Tommy Drake’s fourth ship “*Ladybird*,” christened by Mildred Matterand, launched from the Matterand boat yard on March 2, 1930. Drake lived with the Matterand family who were close friends. Haakon retired in 1971 and died at the age of 94 in October 1976. The property of his father’s toil and his birth is now returning again to its original purpose--a sacred resting place for the first peoples of the lower Stillaguamish and sustainer of life for king salmon.

by Richard Hanks

(Sources: Dennis Conroy & Carol Ronkin, *Pioneers of the Stillaguamish Valley*; Robert Ruby and John Brown, *Esther Ross: Stillaguamish Champion*; Marian Duff interview with Haakon Matterand, Sept. 1974, *Stanwood Area Historical Society archives*; Nels Bruseth, “Indians,” interview with Ole Matterand, ca. 1910, copy from the Bruseth family; *Illustrated History of Snohomish County*, William Whitfield ed., 1926; *Seattle Daily Times*, Nov. 18, 1962, Oct. 21, 1973; *Arlington Times*, March 13 & 20, 1930; *Stanwood News*, Sept. 25, 1974; *Stanwood Camano News*, May 17, 2016; E-mail communication and interview with Tracey Boser, Cultural Resource Specialist and Jason Griffith, Fisheries Biologist, Stillaguamish Tribe, Sept. 28 & Oct. 4, 2016; Web, “Coastal Salish Canoes,” *Jamestown S’kallam Tribe*, Oct. 24, 2016, jamestowntribe.org/history/hist_canoe.htm; Federal census records, Washington marriage records, Ancestry.com).

Family History Researchers!



Camwood Genealogy Workshop meets the FIRST Monday of each month at 1 p.m. on the 2nd floor of the Stanwood Area History Museum & Research Library.


For more information, call Bill Blandin, 360-387-3375

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS!



The Village Photographer
 Billy Jennings




**Stanwood Area
 History Museum &
 Research Library,
 Pearson House &
 The Floyd**
 Operated By
 Stanwood Area Historical Society
 360-629-6110

Research Wednesdays
 1:00-4:00 pm
 Open for Tours Anytime
 by Appointment

Stanwood Area Historical Society's 6th Annual
**SPRING TEA &
 VINTAGE FASHION EXHIBIT**
"Waistlines and Hemlines"

 Please save this date
SAT. APRIL 29 at 12:30 PM
Honoring Remarkable Women

 Because of the popularity of the Tea, prepaid
 reservations required call:
 360-629-6110 by April 21st Tickets: \$20.00

 The Floyd Norgaard Hall, 27130 102nd Ave. in Stanwood





AT THE FLOYD

February 4th • 6:30 p.m.

South End String Band Returns

February 25-26, 2017

*Port Susan Birding &
Snow Goose Festival*

March 19th • 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

*History and Hors d'oeuvres
Hank Cramer - Irish Songs*

March 25-26th • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

*Welcome Center for the
Camano Island Historic Sites Tour*

The UPS Store

Full Color Document Printing
Shipping Service & Supplies
Newsletters • Business Cards
Posters • Brochures

(360) 629-8100

26910 92nd Ave NW, C5, Stanwood
www.theupsstorelocal.com/4798

RENT THE FLOYD



The Floyd Norgaard Cultural Center Public Hall is available for arts, music, theater, cultural events as well as a banquet hall for family events, weddings, reunions, birthdays, & business meetings.

Proceeds from rentals and events benefit the continuing preservation and rehabilitation of the Public Hall and SAHS educational and historical projects and programs.

Call 360-629-6110 or visit www.sahs-fncc.org

SAHS Memorials

In Memory Of:

Eugene Engstrom	- Carl & Nancy Garlow
Charles & Harrett Soliday	- Carl & Nancy Garlow
Walter Werme	- Janet Mayer
Rolf Skrinde	- Margaret Utgard
Shirley Ludwick	- Margaret Utgard
Shirley Ludwick	- Elaine Thurston

SAHS Donations

Phillips & Candice Trautman
Fidalgo Finderskeepers
Pamela Trojanoski
Anonymous
ARA Construction

GET INVOLVED...STAY IN TOUCH

The Stanwood Area Historical Society is a special place. It collects and conserves the wondrous treasures of history that define our community. Your participation would not only assist in this crucial protection of our past, but would make you part of our important work. You can make a difference. Join SAHS today!

Memberships are due annually in January. This is a significant means of support for the Society and now includes a subscription to the newsletter and 10% off all publications, rental of The Floyd and special events for most memberships. SAHS is a tax-exempt non-profit organization and depends on gifts, bequests from individuals and groups, fundraising activities and membership dues for its financial support. Your contributions are tax deductible and will be used only for the preservation of the history of our area.*

Individual Membership: **\$20.00**

Student (Under 15) Membership: **\$5.00***

Family Membership: **\$25.00**

Lifetime Individual Membership (+65 yrs of age): **\$100.00***

(*Newsletter Only)

Name [Please print] _____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____



P. O. Box 69 ~~~ 27112 102nd Ave. N. W., Stanwood, Washington ~~~ www.sahs-fncc.org Photographer: G. D. Horton, circa 1886, Stanwood Stillaguamish River Waterfront

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE BY JANUARY 31ST. THANK YOU!

PERMIT # 253
STANWOOD, WA
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
STANDARD
PRESORTED

STANWOOD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 69
STANWOOD, WA 98292