

# STANWOOD AREA ECHOES

Newsletter of the Stanwood Area Historical Society  
P.O. Box 69  
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Stanwood, WA 98292  
[www.sahs-fncc.org](http://www.sahs-fncc.org)



*Stanwood Area Echoes*

Issue No. 52 : Fall, 2016

## STANWOOD'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE WAR EFFORT



**STANWOOD SHIPYARDS JUNE 30, 1944** -- From 1942 to 1944, seven ocean going wooden barges were built for the army at the Stanwood Shipyards. This was the sixth one built: B.C.L.-1601, 203'10" non-propelled, wood ocean barge. Henry Klett (white cap and overalls) in the foreground drove trucks between the shipyards in Kirkland and Stanwood. These ocean-going vessels were designed to carry cargo to Alaska and elsewhere.

The first army barge, built at the town's new World War II shipyard, glided down the ways and into the Stilly on July 22, 1943 with a flag-waving, band-playing, crowd-cheering ceremony heralding the event. While the barge was not the first utility craft that had been built here, to the people of Stanwood, it represented the town's first industrial contribution to the war effort.

*Donated by Lillian Klett*

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends:

I can't believe I am writing my last "Message from the President," since my term of office will expire December 31 – more about that later. Right now let's focus on some of the great things we have been doing lately and will be doing soon.

First of all, our new calendar is out! Many thanks to all those who worked on it; it looks really great. Be sure to get your copy soon; there was a limited printing.

On September 10, SAHS participated in a walk through history sponsored by the Snohomish County Heritage Commission. Various historical societies prepared displays for viewing at the trailheads along the Centennial Trail. Our responsibility was to set up some history of dairy farming in the area and display it at the Nakashima Trailhead. Janet Larson made an informative poster, and Louie Stangeland loaned a picture album of the farm and also brought some dairy artifacts for viewing. Cliff Larson, Louis Stangeland, and John Smistad manned the display, explained the use of the artifacts, and talked to the visitors from 10:00 to 3:00, in beautiful weather. As an added bonus, Louis brought corn for everyone who stopped to visit! We estimated that more than 100 people came by that day.

Then, on September 18 we showed off the improvements to the museum that were made through a grant from the county. New lighting, exhibits, a newly painted and repaired ramp, and class pictures were some of the improvements. Following the Open House, we had our first History and Hors d'oeuvres of the season—Norway Night. We had presentations on the history of Norwegian settlers to the area, songs from the Norwegian Male Chorus, and traditional Norwegian foods.

Everyone in the community is invited to our annual Christmas Party on December 1. It is always a fun-filled and yet low-key way to ease into the holiday season. There will be stories, music, a raffle, and delicious food. Come at 7:00 pm. It's good to be able to ease into the season, since Santa's visit on December 3 is any thing but low-key! There will be pictures with Santa, gift bags for the children, cookies, hot chocolate, and cider for all, and there will be people to help the children make Christmas crafts. Everything is without charge, and last year we had

over 400 people come through, starting at 10:00 am. We need lots of volunteers to keep the cookie trays filled, so come for as long as you can, even if it is only an hour, and lend a hand.

The one thing I haven't mentioned was our annual meeting, held on September 18. We started with a barbecue, and I was allowed to flip burgers! The meal was followed by reports from various committees and election of officers. I have completed two terms, four years, as president, and it has been a great four years. Thank you to everyone especially the Board of Directors, who have been so supportive of our programs and of me during the last four years. Richard Hanks was elected the new president and will take office on January 1, 2017. Congratulations, Richard! Thank you to everyone.

*Sincerely,*

*Gail Ryer, President*

*Stanwood Area Historical Society*

## Stanwood Area Historical Society Effective January 1, 2017

### OFFICERS TERM (2Yr)

<b>President</b>	Richard Hanks	2017-2018
<b>Vice President</b>	Dan Lien	2016-2017
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	John Smistad	2017-2018
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	Margaret Utgard	2016-2017
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dave Eldridge	2016-2017
<b>Past President</b>	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

Newsletter Editors

Richard and Robin Hanks





## NOVEMBER 29TH — ONE DAY OF GIVING

An act of philanthropy is often a reconnection to our own humanity. Five days after families gather around Thanksgiving tables laden with blessings of abundance and togetherness, people will be asked to bestow blessings on others with Giving Tuesday. It is the fifth year of this growing movement aimed at enhancing our communities and the future of the people in them.

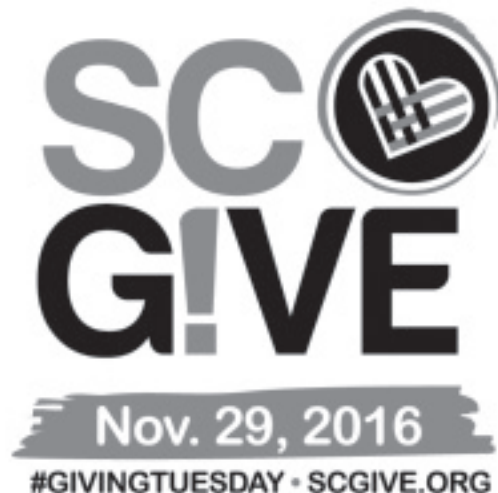
Philanthropy is also about sacrifice and the Stanwood Area Historical Society is seeking funding through Giving Tuesday to remember the now silent voices of those men and women who gave up a lifetime of Thanksgivings for service to their country. The Community Veterans Memorial planned in the courtyard of our complex will be an elegant but sober reflection of their sacrifice. We deeply appreciate the craftsmen and leaders who have pledged their resources and labor to completing the Memorial but final realization of the project requires additional public support.

The names of the fallen veterans from the greater Stanwood area will be etched atop marble pedestals identifying the conflicts which took their lives. The generosity of community members is needed to pay for those pedestals. A simpler brick wall will mark the east side of the

Memorial and members of the public can purchase inscribed remembrance bricks, for placement in that wall, to honor any veteran who served.

A tradition of philanthropy is one act at a time--one person at a time. The philanthropy of those service men and women we honor gave us a lifetime of tomorrows that they would never see. We hope you will join us with your contribution to remember their gift to us.

*Read about one of the local heroes, whose name will be etched in the marble, on page 4*



## GERHARD LANE'S FINAL MISSION



*The Esaches Stanwood High School 1925 yearbook*

Gerhard Lane never expected that he would be a U.S. Army combat officer fighting in the jungles of the Philippines. Just days after turning 26, Gerhard left for China in August 1935 as a missionary for the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. But, then again, he didn't know Japan would invade China in 1937 throwing his

life, and the Asian Pacific region, into turmoil.

The young minister was following in the footsteps of his father, Reverend George Lane. Pastor Lane was installed on April 22, 1918 as minister to Stanwood's Our Saviours Lutheran Church, Camano Island Lutheran Church and Freeborn Church. He continued his ministry in this area until 1929 and during his pastorate, Luther League and a Juvenile Choir were organized. Although Gerhard was born in Custer, Washington north of Bellingham, many of his formative years, including high school, were spent in Stanwood. A popular student, he was chosen Vice-President of his Sophomore class and Secretary/Treasurer of the People's Luther League, a Christian youth group. During his senior year in 1926, he was elected Yell King of the Student Body Association at Stanwood High, played clarinet in the orchestra, and lettered in basketball. After graduation he studied at Pacific Lutheran College in Parkland, Washington and the Norwegian Lutheran Seminary in Minneapolis.

June 1935 certainly must have felt to Gerhard as a time of great promise. Ordained as a new minister, he married Helen Wing that month. She accompanied her new husband on his Christian mission. Uprooted by the Japanese invasion, Gerhard and Helen fled first to Hong Kong where their son Johnny was born in 1938, before seeking security in the American protectorate of the Philippine Islands. News accounts say that Gerhard suspended his missionary efforts and worked as a representative for the International Harvester company. However, the bitter wind of war found him and Helen again after December 7, 1941. Ten hours after the sneak attack on

Pearl Harbor the Japanese invaded the Philippines. Fighting initially centered on the northern island of Luzon but on December 20th, the Japanese landed troops on the southern island of Mindanao, quickly seizing the town of Davao. By early February 1942, Gerhard enlisted into the American Army with the rank of 1st lieutenant. Gerhard, in his last letter home, wrote his mother: "We've all had to work hard during these first few months since the war struck. It's a hard, bitter job, but it must be done. Our job now is to wipe out the Japanese—and every white man, Chinese and Filipino over here must help!"

Defenses were unraveling quickly for the Americans and their Filipino allies. Gerhard, along with other American and Filipino soldiers, were assigned to assist civilian refugees, mainly women and children, fleeing their Davao homes to their Lanao Sector of Mindanao. Helen and young Johnny were with them. The evacuees were harassed by Moro tribesmen who had also congregated in the area. The Islamic Moro, while fierce fighters against the Americans for decades, added the Japanese to their list of enemies after the invasion, however sympathies differed among individual Moro and some fought for the Japanese. Commander Walter Bicknell wrote that the Dansalan district, where the refugees located, "was practically overrun by Moros who were nothing but outlaws." Fear of the Moro led the party, including the Lanes, to move to a safer area where American General Guy Fort instructed them to surrender to the Japanese. Bicknell wrote that on their return trip to Dansalan many of their Moro supply bearers disappeared with much of their remaining baggage. While encamped near the Moro village of Tamparin on May 27th, eyewitnesses remembered that a pro-Japanese Moro stabbed and killed Lane as he investigated a scuffle in the camp.

There was more of the minister



*The Esaches Stanwood High School 1943 yearbook*

in Gerhard's death than the lieutenant— helping people had been his cause. After the surrender, Helen and Johnny Lane spent the war in Japanese prison camps on Mindanao. Two memorial services were held for Gerhard Lane, one in early 1943 when his mother was finally notified by the War Department that he had been killed, and another in August 1949 when his body was re-interred at the cemetery of Pacific Lutheran College near Tacoma. After the war Helen and Johnny moved to Hilo, Hawaii where she taught music in the local school districts until her death in 1994. The story of the Lutheran minister turned combat soldier then disappeared into history.

by Richard Hanks

(Sources: *Seattle Times*, April 1943, March 1945, August 1946 and August 1949; *Bellingham Herald*, April 1943; "Experience of a Supply Officer," report of Commander Walter Bicknell, USN, [oryokumaruonline.org](http://oryokumaruonline.org); *The Esaches*, Stanwood High School yearbook, 1925, 1926 and 1943, Stanwood Area Historical Society Archives and 135th Anniversary Celebration booklet, *Our Saviour's Lutheran Church*, 2011, Stanwood Area Historical Society Archives.)

**Honor the memory of Gerhard Lane  
and 45 other veterans from  
Camano Island to Stanwood--  
Cedarhome to Warm Beach--  
with a memorial for those who fell in  
defense of their home and country.**

## SAHS Memorials & Donations

### *In Memory Of:*

Diane Nielson	- Janet Utgard
Diane Nielson	- Margaret Utgard
Diane Nielson	- Randi Crisp
Carlene Garrison	- Carl & Kris Garrison
Ellen J Ramberget Nelson	- Ben Nelson
Dennis Hamilton	- Laurie Ware
Dennis Hamilton	- Lenore Moa
Dennis Hamilton	- Margaret Utgard
Alice Davison, VP & Advisor	- TCHS Class of 1956
Judith Solberg, classmate	- TCHS Class of 1956
Virgil Larson	- Margaret Utgard
Marlen Knutson	- Margaret Utgard

### *Donations:*

HisBiz Painting



# Stanwood Area History Museum

&

## D.O. Pearson House

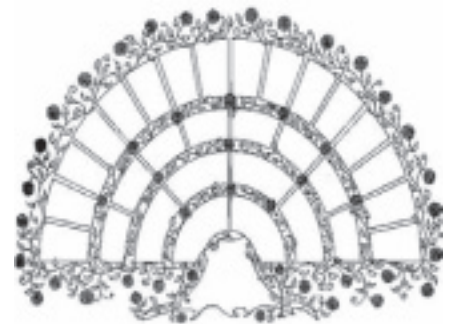
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Operated By  
Stanwood Area Historical Society

360-629-6110

Research Wednesdays 1-4pm  
Open for Tours by Appointment  
Friday & Sunday 1-4pm

## 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.

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

**SAHS Board & Member Meetings -  
Fourth Tuesday afternoons at 4:00 pm  
in the second floor of the museum.  
Everyone is welcome!**



## PEARSON HOUSE IS GETTING A LONG OVERDO MAKEOVER

Last year for Giving Tuesday we raised money for repairing and/or replacing windows in this historic house. We are in the process of contacting the right vendor for that job, but we realized there were many other things that needed to be done for this 125-year-old home. Volunteers and docents started working on cleaning, rearranging, captioning, and documenting the numerous artifacts in this old house.

One rainy day, HisBiz Painting came in and painted the ceiling in an upstairs bedroom as an "in-kind" donation. They did a magnificent job and without business people like this in Stanwood we would not have such a robust historical society. That is clearly illustrated in the logos below of all of our 2016 sponsors!

Please call us at 360-629-6110 to arrange for a tour of this beautiful heritage home that has been such a treasure to Stanwood and the surrounding area for so many years.



### THANKS TO OUR 2016 BUSINESS SPONSORS

Washington Federal. invested here.

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**THE WORLD'S FRIENDLIEST ANGEL OF THE WINDS CASINO**



## AT THE FLOYD

November 20th • 4 - 6 p.m.

*History and Hors d'oeuvres*

Richard Blumenthal

December 1st • 7 p.m.

*SAHS Christmas Party*

December 3rd • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

*Old Fashioned Christmas*

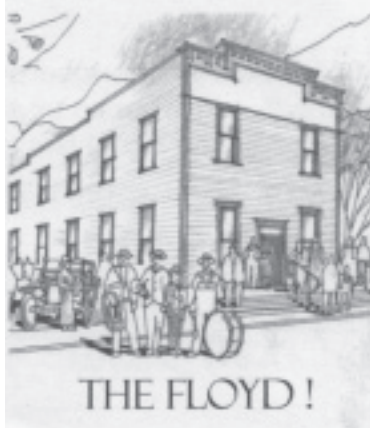
December 21st • 7 p.m.

*Jeffrey Cohan Concert*

## 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. Call 360-629-6110 or [www.sahs-fncc.org](http://www.sahs-fncc.org)

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



## Get Your 2017 Calendar!

Stanwood Area Historical Society  
Twenty-Ninth In A Series • Limited Edition



Family and friends from Stanwood visiting the Hogan Logging Camp near Triangle Cove, many on bicycles, circa 1900. L-R: Samuel Gilpatrick and son Harry; Jack Hogan; his younger sister Alice in front with a bicycle; their mother Bridget and Mary Gilpatrick with son Arthur; Walter Hogan standing in back in the middle. Photographer J.T. Wagness  
SAHS# 88.06.138.08

# Only \$15.00

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# 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](http://www.sahs-fncc.org) Photographer: G. D. Horton, circa 1886, Stanwood Stillaguamish River Waterfront

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