

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. 44 : Fall, 2014

MURPHY'S FOLLY

Written by Grace Ryan Cornwell in the 1980's

The beautiful Stillaguamish River in North Snohomish County flows its way from the Cascade Mountains west to Puget sound with many a bend and curve. Though the principal means of transportation and travel in the early settlement days was by water, the popularity of the automobile soon demanded better roadways. Planked roads and widened trails were not sufficient, particularly because of the heavy rainfall in the area.

Therefore the legislative body in Olympia, (the state capital) voted for a highway—now referred to as “Old Highway 99,” or Pacific Highway. Originating to the south of Snohomish County, the first route lay to the east of Snohomish County through Bothell, King County. Plans for a new route through Snohomish County were drawn up in 1924. A contract for paving the modern highway was awarded in 1927 and concrete mixers were set up at the King County line and in Everett, planning to meet somewhere in between. This first version of the highway was twenty feet wide.

As the road came from Everett it headed east through Marysville, the north and west following the Stillaguamish River through Silvana with a steel bridge spanning it at the town and yet another one as the highway left that area to carry the traffic north to the towns of Stanwood, Mt. Vernon and on to Bellingham.

Since again in a short time this road could not accommodate the growing traffic, the elected officials of this district, then called the 31st district (now tenth district), had dreams of building a more direct route in this section.

Mr. George Murphy of Arlington served in the Washington State Senate as a Republican at this time—1922–1932. At the same time other senators from other districts were clamoring for better roads, routes and bridges for their areas. These predominant needs were the Aurora Bridge in Seattle, King County, and the Deception Pass bridge in Skagit County, while Mr. Murphy felt Snohomish County needed

another bridge to cross the Stillaguamish River just north of Island Crossing. As a result of an impasse in trying to pass the legislation for the three bridges the following men formed a “power group” to vote them in and pass the issuance of bonds to pay for their construction!

*Senator George Murphy of Arlington
Representative Reba Horn of Bellingham
Senator Don London of King County
Senator Fred Hastings of King County
Will Knutzen of Skagit County*



*Early Road Map (circa 1925)
of the route before Hwy 99*

The major north-south highway route before it went across the Stillaguamish River at Island Crossing. (From “Railroad and Road Map of the Pacific Northwest” compiled by Emory Cobb)

Continued on Page 3

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is an exciting time at the Stanwood Area Historical Society. We are streamlining our operations through the better use of committees and are focusing our efforts on becoming a more dynamic part of the community. Please join us at our annual Christmas Party on Dec. 4th or think about coming down on December 6th, when Santa will be visiting the Floyd. We will be partnering with the Stanwood Chamber of Commerce for this event.

We are ready to begin Phase II of our Capital Funds project, which will consist of erecting a building to the north of The Floyd to house our collection of antique cars and farm machinery. Once they are in their new home, the bottom floor of the museum will be available for accessioning and storage, and the upstairs will be used for public research and more exhibits.

Our "History and Hors d'oeuvres" programs have attracted many new people and we will be continuing these programs in the Spring. We are also planning to develop some living history projects.

All of these events take dedicated, hardworking people and our members, docents, and volunteers do an outstanding job getting all these things done. Many, many thanks to all of you. If you would like to become active in some of these areas, we have many places for you to help. We presently need more docents, and we also have a need for hosts for events at The Floyd over the next few months. We do pay a nominal hourly amount for people who host events.

*Sincerely,
Gail Ryer, President*

Stanwood Area Historical Society January 1, 2015

<u>OFFICERS</u>		<u>TERM (2Yr)</u>
President	Gail Ryer	2015-2016
Vice President	Dan Lien	2014-2015
Recording Secretary	John Smistad	2015-2016
Corresponding Secretary	Margaret Utgard	2014-2015
Treasurer	Deborah Knutson	2014-2015
Past President	Larry Lien	
<u>TRUSTEES</u>		<u>TERM (3Yr)</u>
Penny Buse		2013-2015
Bill Keller		2013-2015
Kathy Uroff		2013-2015
Louis Strangeland		2013-2015
Jim Joyce		2013-2015
Delbert Fox		2013-2015
Janet Mayer		2014-2016
Sandy Robinson		2014-2016
Dave Eldridge		2014-2016
Margaret Utgard		2015-2017
Pat Bronson		2015-2017
Vivian Henderson		2015-2017
Joan McConnel		2015-2017
Mary Margaret Haugen		2015-2017
Alex Gedstad	Honorary Trustee	

SAHS Memorials

Marie Anderson - Margaret Utgard
Lois Armintraut - Dennis & Shirley Anderson, Donella Rod
Helga Broz - Margaret Utgard, Jerry & Rose King
Annabelle Burns - Roger Burns
Patricia Brovold Carlyle - Margaret Utgard
Jack Eldridge - Jerry & Rose King, Margaret Utgard
Marguerite Fjarlie - Donella Rod, Margaret Utgard
Barbara Gstohl - Dennis & Shirley Anderson
Ivy Hansen - Margaret Utgard
Lorraine Hushagen - Margaret Utgard
Hazel Matterand - Margaret Utgard
Allen Norbeck - Duane Gainer
Allen Lee O'Farrell - Mary O'Farrell
Ella Larson - Margaret Utgard, Jerry & Rose King

Carlene Garrison - Margaret Utgard
Earl Heitman - Jerry & Rose King
Jim Hendershot - Jerry & Rose King, Margaret Utgard
Jean Knutson - Dennis & Shirley Anderson, Jerry & Rose King
Darlene Gran Pearson - Margaret Utgard
Terry Peterson - Twin City High School Class of 1951
John Raider - Carl & Nancy Garlow; Elmer & Gladys Norgaard Trust
Karen & Rose Rauch - Margaret Utgard, Alfred (Babe) Schei
Marge Ronnestad - Dennis & Shirley Anderson
Arvid Ronning - Margaret Utgard
Diane Torset Silsbee - Margaret Utgard
Ricky Strahl - Margaret Utgard
Leslie Sundberg - Bill & Betty Garrison, Marian Turner
Phillis & Alan Whitehead - Margaret Utgard

Murphy's Folly Continued From Page 1

Regardless of this fine ambition, all did not work smoothly. The majority of the "power group" would not favor George Murphy's bridge over the "Stilly" - he wanted it too wide. There could be no need for a bridge as wide as Mr. Murphy demanded!

However, progress increased car travel and a branch of Highway 99 (Pacific Highway) wa built to follow a more direct route north and "Murphys' Folly" with its graceful three arched steel super-structure served its purpose noble.

Some years later (1969) with the building of Highway I-5, a two-lane road, again this fine wide steel structure, "Murphy's Folly," became an integral part serving the south lane perfectly, needing no restructuring.

Mr. Murphy was a man of vision and realized the importance of building for the future. So he could well withstand the smirks and ridicule of his bridge—"Murphy's Folly." Perhaps with a later "I told you so."

A CALL FOR PHOTOGRAPHS OR PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAITS

The City of Stanwood and the Stanwood Area Historical Society are seeking photographs or photographic portraits of the Mayors of Stanwood.

Chronology of the Mayors of Stanwood

Stanwood (Incorporated 1903)

- 1903 - 1905 D. O. Pearson
- 1907 - 1909 A. B. Klæboe
- 1910 - 1911 George J. Ketchum
- 1912 - 1915 D. O. Pearson
- 1916 - 1917 L. H. Jacobsen, M. D.
- 1918 - 1920 George J. Ketchum
- 1920 - 1922 Conrad Lien (resigned) and succeeded by Nels Olsen
- 1922 - 1925 Charles Dockendorf
- 1926 - 1929 Ole. E. Thompson
- 1930 - 1947 Charles Dockendorf
- 1948 - 1951 Ed Bryant
- 1952 - 1959 Albert C. Moe

East Stanwood (Incorporated 1922)

- 1922 - 1931 Francis Giard
- 1932 - 1935 Charles E. Yngve
- 1936 - 1938 Harold Greer
- 1939 - 1943 C. R. Amundson
- 1944 - 1951 James J. Hansen
- 1952 - 1958 Ira Armintrout
- 1958 - 1960 John G. Hanson

Consolidated June 1960

- 1960 - 1968 Idan Gilbertson
- 1969 - 1975 Donald Moa
- 1976 - 1985 Kenneth E. Day
- 1986 - 1993 Robert N. Larson
- 1994 Donald K. Moa
- 1995 - 2003 Matthew J. McCune
- 2004 - 2005 H. W. Kuhnly
- 2006 - 2013 Dianne White
- 2014 - Leonard Kelley



The Stanwood Area Historical Society presents an exhibit at the Floyd.

80 Years of Women's Vintage Fashion

WAISTLINES & HEMLINES
Exhibit of fashion from 1890 to 1970

Make An Appointment To See Our Beautiful Exhibit

360-629-6110

Floyd Norgaard Cultural Center
27108 102nd Ave NW
Stanwood, WA 98292

CIVIL WAR TIDBIT

BY RICHARD HANKS

BERGE LEE: A VETERAN'S STORY

Not surprisingly the greater Stanwood area had its fair share of Civil War veterans who settled along its rivers and fertile plains. Others had fathers who served predominantly the Union cause in the terrible conflict. Most of these men settled toward the east and southeast of Snohomish County in those communities which lead into the foothills of the Cascades, such as Granite Falls, Arlington, Sultan or Monroe. Stanwood veterans included Daniel Pearson and O. B. Iverson and Berge Olai Lee whose son John was a prominent farmer in the early 20th century. A good number of the veterans of Snohomish County fought for the states of Maine, Iowa and Wisconsin. Berge, as an example, was a veteran of one of the more ethnically homogeneous regiments, the 15th Wisconsin Volunteers nicknamed the "Scandinavian Regiment."

Most Civil War enthusiasts are familiar with the largely Irish 69th New York or the several all-German regiments which served the Union but the 15th Wisconsin appears to be the only one which was overwhelmingly Scandinavian in makeup; some estimates put it at 90 percent Norwegian with the rest of Swedish, Danish or Dutch background. Born in Evanger, Norway, available records do not show when Berge Lee immigrated to Wisconsin but he was living in Deerfield in Dane County in 1860. Berge enlisted in Company H on October 2, 1861 although the regiment was not officially mustered in for another four months under the command of Hans Christian Heg. He was a bit older than most recruits with census records putting him in his mid-20s. That may be one reason why he soon attained the rank of corporal. Company H was known as "Heg's Rifles" or the "Voss Company," due to the number of men from that part of Norway.

The 15th Wisconsin saw significant action during the war becoming part of the Army of the Cumberland. They helped chase Confederate troops out of Kentucky in 1862 and were at Stones River, Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge in 1863. Their transfer in 1864 to William Sherman's army put them in the teeth of some of the toughest fighting at places such as Resaca, Peachtree Creek and the fall of Atlanta. The regiment lost 336 men during this time—242 of those to disease.

Berge Lee was mustered out of the service February 13, 1865. In short order he moved his family to Tordenskjold township in Otter Tail County, Minnesota where his son John was born in 1869. This part of western Minnesota had been heavily settled by German and Scandinavian immigrants. Their Minnesota neighbors included the family of Anders Estby who would find their way to Norman, Washington south of Stanwood in 1887. The Estby's son Bernard was a year younger than John Lee.

In 1876 fear of a possible Indian uprising rippled through the farms and small villages of Minnesota as word of the defeat and death of George Custer and his troopers of the 7th Cavalry reached the area. Although nearly a thousand miles from the battlefield at Little Big Horn, the memories of an 1862 uprising by the Santee Sioux fueled the anxiety. Treaty concessions had forced the Santee Dakota onto a narrow strip of land bordering the Minnesota River on the western edge of the state. Two years of failed crops had the Santee facing starvation in August 1862. Financial confusion delayed government officials from opening their warehouses containing promised provision for the Indians. The explosion of violence which occurred took the lives of roughly 800 immigrants in one of the bloodiest uprisings in Anglo/Indian history. News of Custer's 1876 defeat initiated wild rumors fed by any sighting of Indians, such as local Chippewa who were moving peacefully through the area. Hundreds of families left their farms and congregated around villages in the area but not Berge Lee and Hans Juelson. They rallied their neighbors and constructed a sod fort protected by four-foot thick walls on a hilltop which they plowed and graded. In a sad irony, while the Anglos of the area had nothing to fear from an Indian raid, the fort's construction unearthed and destroyed an Indian burial ground—the plowing "breaking the bones of the buried dead into small fragments," according to a county history. The area today is a protected site named for Juelson.

Berge moved his family, including son John, to the Tacoma area in 1887 where both found employment with the Northern Pacific Railroad. Lean times drove John to lease a farm around

Norman, Washington in 1891 where the family again re-located near Anders Estby's 97 acres. Bad roads and poor conditions made for rough going early on. With the farm's lease up in 1895, John Lee decided to take his chances in the newly discovered gold fields of Alaska territory, a journey that he would repeat several times. Lee is described as "stalwart in frame, with the hearty and brusque manner of a frontiersman." John's infectious enthusiasm and great success with Eldorado mine #29, lured 20 other friends to the Klondike including Bernard Estby and brother-in-law and professional photographer John Thorvald Wagness. Wagness's photographs of the Yukon adventurers are witness to this historic episode.

Wagness had earlier operated his own photography shops in the upper Midwest and Tacoma area. Unable to support himself and his large family in Alaska, Wagness returned to Stanwood around 1900 and again set up a photography shop. His iconic images of this area are today housed at the University of Washington, the Canadian national archives and the Stanwood Historical Society. His son Ken was working on a book featuring the Klondike pictures until his death in

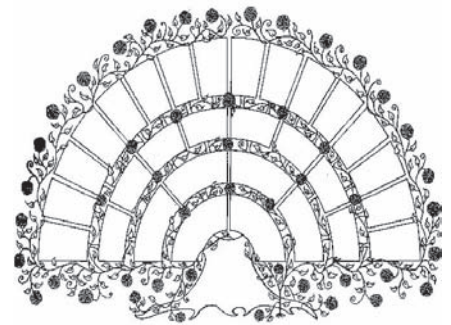
1999. It was just the type of book John Lee hoped Wagness would produce to chronicle Lee's success.

John Lee's initial success allowed him to purchase 133 acres near Stanwood in 1898 laying the foundation for a going dairy operation. He returned to Alaska and remained for five additional years although he is running his dairy farm when profiled for a county history in 1906. Berge Lee was living with John at that time but died three years later. John, with wife Lillian and three year old daughter Olive, was back in Fairbanks in 1914 along with friend Bernard Estby. John later lost much of his Eldorado wealth in risky speculation and died in Stanwood in 1928. He is buried in Anderson Cemetery in East Stanwood near the gravestone of his father Berge. Berge's stone was moved to Anderson from the Florence Cemetery at the request of his descendants. Bernard Estby died in Stanwood in 1957 and is buried in Valley View Cemetery.

Veterans such as Berge Lee were typical of those who immigrated to America and chased what seemed to be boundless opportunities. Their willingness to accept the hardships and dangers of looking beyond each horizon excited similar passions in the next generation. Their names may no longer be commonplace among the citizens of Stanwood but their imprint upon the culture of the area helped re-shape the landscape.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

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 Activities Report

It has been a very busy year since the last newsletter—too busy to even track all the events, exhibit work, meetings, fund raising, collections management, and on and on. It is hard to even recall it.

But last fall the Board decided to launch a fund raising campaign for major repairs to the South wall of the Floyd Norgaard Cultural Center. Task Force members John Smistad, Gail Ryer, Dan Lien, Mary Margaret Haugen, Bill Keller, Kathy Uroff, Penny Buse, Vivian Henderson and Dave Eldridge met weekly and planned out a strategy that included two phases. The first phase was to repair the wall by removing the siding and replacing the sheathing with sturdier plywood that securely fits against the window (with better flashing). This would prevent the leaking that had been causing damage to the interior walls and eventually to the structure itself. New milled siding has been installed and the project is complete, just in time before the storms started and did more water damage. Now we are ready to begin Phase II, which will consist of erecting a building to the north of The Floyd to house our collection of antique cars and farm machinery. Once they are in their new home, the bottom floor of the museum will be available for accessioning and storage, and the upstairs will be used for public research and more exhibits.

Many individual volunteers and donors stepped forward to support this project, as well as \$25,000 from the Snohomish County Community Heritage Grant reimbursement funds provided by the Snohomish County Historical Commission and by the Snohomish County Commissioners.

Our thanks to Janet Mayer, Janet Larsen, Sandy Robinson and Penny Buse for updating the Pearson House kitchen exhibit. Penny and Mike Buse donated the wonderful 1920s vintage ice box to replace the 1960s refrigerator that finally broke down and looked a bit out of place. The kitchen's sunny south facing dining area with its window seat was always a warm place to sit for our docents and for meetings. But last year the Tolin House remodel was completed and it is now the office and visitor center where docents greet those who call or arrive for tours. The SAHS board now has its meetings in the second floor library area of the museum behind the Pearson House.

The beginning of the year was our normal

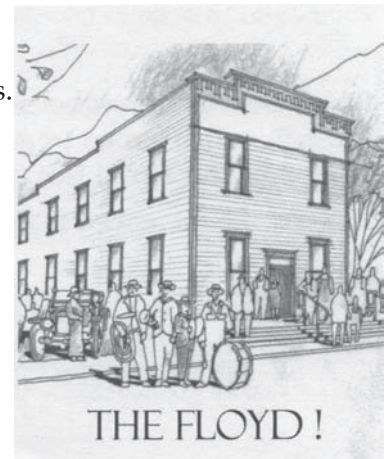


schedule of music beginning with the South End String Band and this fall we introduced our "History and Hors d'oeuvres" program which has been very interesting and attracted many people. If you want any further information about events, call us at (360) 629-6110 and leave a message. If you would like to receive this newsletter by e-mail, please call Janet Utgard at (360) 629-6110 and give her your email address or email her at SAHS.Janet@gmail.com. Thanks!

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

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, and business meetings. Call 360-629-6110
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.





FINAL H&H FOR THIS YEAR

Images of Area Native Americans Highlight Talk by Everett Historian

A slide presentation by David Dilgard Everett

An estimated 90 people congregated at The Floyd the evening of November 9th to see Everett Public Historian David Dilgard's presentation of images of area Native Americans. This most recent H&H featured the work of three photographers: Norman S. Edson (1876-1968), Ferdinand Brady (1880-1967) and J. A. Juleen (1874-1935). The pictures were primarily taken on the Tulalip Reservation.



David Dilgard and Mary Margaret

Edson was the son of a well-known Canadian landscape painter. An accomplished violinist and avid ornithologist, he learned photography from Bert Brush of Everett and often used his photos as the basis for his drawings and paintings. Ferd Brady was based initially in Marysville and later moved to Anacortes after producing an impressive array of postcard views of Tulalip residents and buildings.

Everett photographer J. A. Juleen's remarkable 1914 photos of tribal leader William Shelton and the Treaty Day observance at Tulalip survive as glass negatives in the collection of the Everett Public Library.

Mission Statement

The Stanwood Area Historical Society seeks to discover, preserve, and display any materials which help to establish, illustrate, and interpret the economic, social, and cultural heritage of the greater Stanwood area, including if financially possible and appropriate, historic sites and properties.

SAVE THE DATES

December 4th • 7 p.m.

SAHS Christmas Party at The Floyd

December 6th • 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Old Fashioned Christmas at The Floyd

December 28th • 2 p.m.

Jazzin' At Christmas at The Floyd

January 24th • *Nordic Heritage Museum*

Interviews with residents at The Floyd

February 7th • *South End String Band*

at The Floyd

February 28th & March 1st • *Snow Goose Festival*

Headquarters at The Floyd

March 8th • 4 p.m.-6 p.m.

History and Hors d'oeuvres at The Floyd

March 21st • *4th Annual Big Band at The Floyd*

April 12th • 4 p.m.-6 p.m.

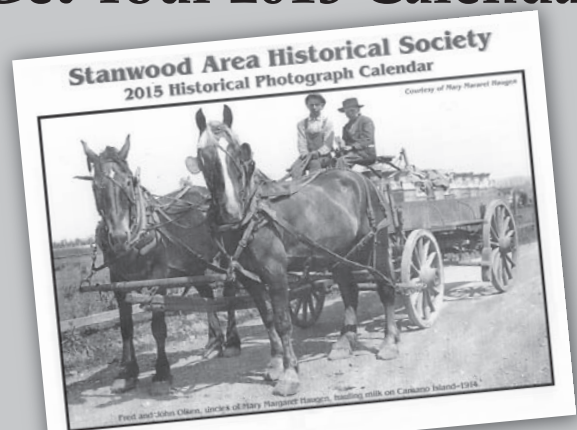
History and Hors d'oeuvres at The Floyd

April 26th • *4th Annual Tea at The Floyd*

May 3rd • 4 p.m.-6 p.m.

History and Hors d'oeuvres at The Floyd

Get Your 2015 Calendar



ONLY \$10.00

A great gift for the holidays!

Available at: Stanwood Area Historical Society
 Coffee Roaster Marketplace @ Terry's Corner
 Camano Island Plaza • Huntington's Corner
 Advanced Automotive • Stanwood Camano News
 Snow Goose Bookstore • Stanwood Hardware
 Ducks In Cafe • Silvana Meats

Memberships are due annually in January. This is a significant means of support for the Society and includes a subscription to the newsletter. 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.

New Renewal

Individual Membership: \$10.00

Family Membership: \$15.00

Business / Organization Membership: \$20.00

Student Membership: \$1.00

Lifetime Individual Membership (over 65 yrs of age to be eligible): \$100.00

General Supporting Donation: \$ _____

Name [Please print] _____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____



STANWOOD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, STANWOOD, WASHINGTON

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