

# STANWOOD AREA ECHOES

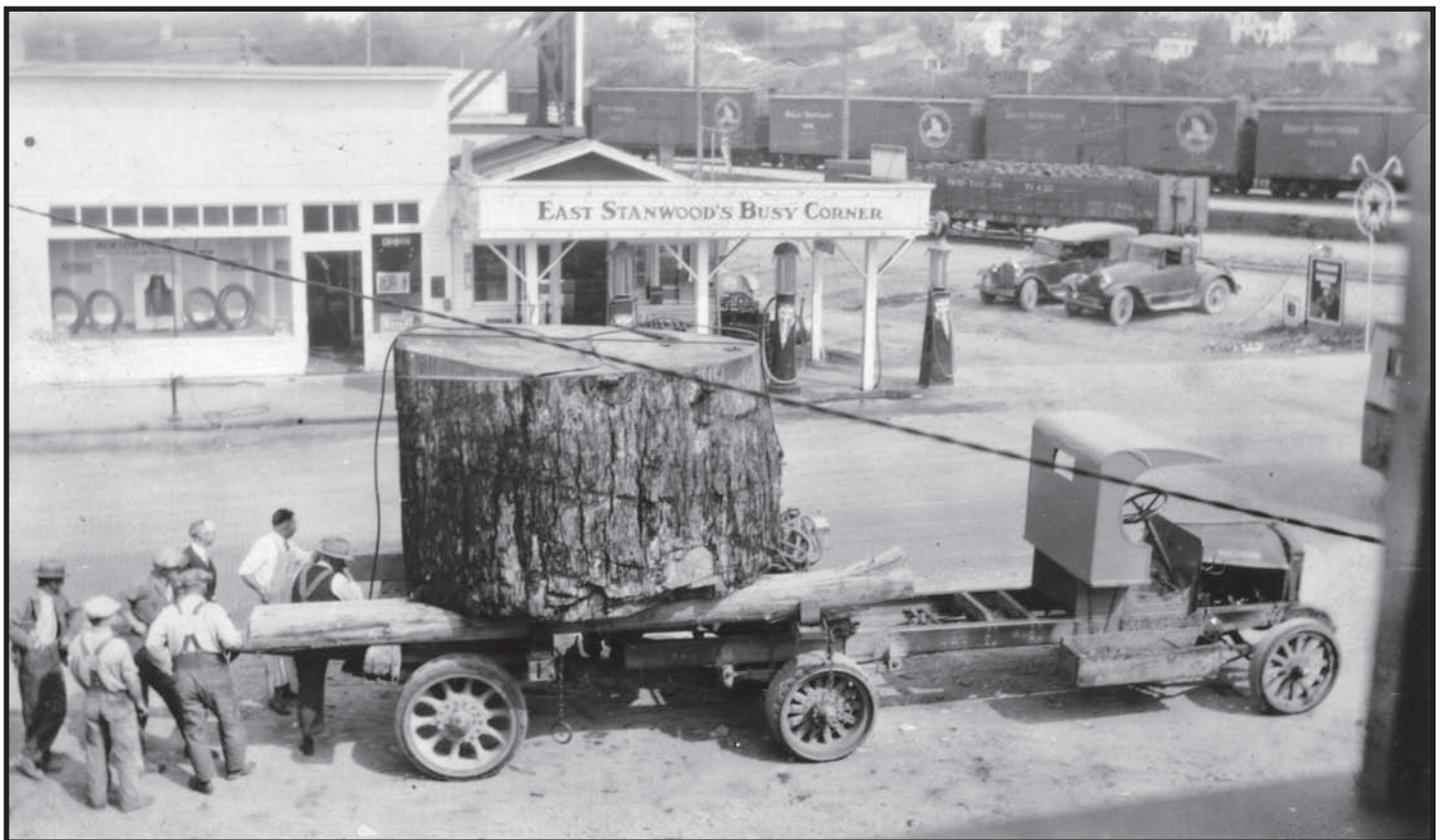
Newsletter of the Stanwood Area Historical Society  
P.O. Box 69  
27108 102nd Ave NW  
Stanwood, WA 98292  
www.sahs-fncc.org



*Stanwood Area Echoes*

Issue No. 47 : Summer, 2015

## FIR LOG CROSS SECTION



*Stump hauled to viaduct in East Stanwood. Photograph is from the Arnt Sagen/David Satre Collection, 1928.  
In the background was the Depot Service Station called East Stanwood's Busy Corner owned by Yngve and Wickstrom.*

The fir log section now sheltered in the D.O. Pearson House yard (on the corner of Market & Pearson St.) was originally cut by the English Lumber Company in 1928 near Lake Cavanaugh. Ole Odegard, Rasmus Larson, Joe Haugen, Oscar Kivley and Ole Lervick are among those credited with felling and sawing it. The stump was 15 feet in diameter. There are about 1200 rings in the tree.

The log was donated by English Lumber

Company and placed above the east side viaduct in East Stanwood in 1928. Its first shelter was constructed by Charles Yngve, Oscar Edlund and Elmer Ramberget. Arnt Sagen and David Satre donated transportation from Stanwood and up to East Stanwood in 1928 when it was originally delivered to the area. In 1992, the Lion's Club transported it to this location, sanded off the graffiti and constructed the new shelter.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends:

Another Fourth of July has passed, and The Floyd was the center of great festivity. The Stanwood Area Historical Society, partnering with the City of Stanwood, sponsored our traditional activities. Leon Sams rang the bell at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, and the fun began with the annual parade. We had more entries this year than anyone could remember from recent years. Besides antique cars, fire trucks, a vintage Cadillac, and two early racing cars, there were lots of bicycles, tricycles, wagons, and marchers on foot. Some participants were dressed in costumes from the Revolutionary period. Ribbons and cash prizes were awarded to the children with the best patriotic costumes. Winners were Kyndal and Sydnee Moss, Ellie Franzen, and Jayme and Kylee Bronson. Children were then treated to games and popsicles.

On a more serious note, the Frank Hancock post of the American Legion presented the colors, while Bob and Melissa McNeil led the crowd in singing “My Country ‘Tis of Thee” and “God Bless America.” They were accompanied by Mary Lee Sams on the piano. The invocation was given by the Rev. Daniel Sailer of the Stanwood United Methodist Church, and Mayor Leonard Kelly welcomed everyone to the event. This year we had the added attraction of a flyover from a squadron from NAS Whidbey.

After the parade, everyone was welcomed into the Floyd Norgaard Cultural Center for an old fashioned ice cream social. There were ice cream, strawberries, lemonade, and cupcakes available. As in recent years, there was a beautiful display of “hero quilts” made by local quilters and given to wounded members of the armed forces. People could read letters from recipients of the quilts. The popular “Waistlines and Hemlines” exhibit of vintage clothing was also on display on the third floor. The display is constantly changing and is a source of great interest to local people who knew many of the people who donated the clothing.

This was a wonderful way to start off the summer after ending our “H and H” series of events with a presentation of Sea Chanties by Hank Cramer. Who knew there could be so much history in a song? Plans are already afoot for a new series of

History and Hors d’Oeuvres for the Fall. Plan on joining us for all of them on Sunday afternoons in September, October, and November.

As always, we are happy to include all of you who would like to volunteer for one event or many. Just call us.

Sincerely,  
Gail Ryer, *President*

## Stanwood Area Historical Society January 1, 2015

<u>OFFICERS</u>		<u>TERM (2Yr)</u>
<b>President</b>	Gail Ryer	2015-2016
<b>Vice President</b>	Dan Lien	2014-2015
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	John Smistad	2015-2016
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	Margaret Utgard	2014-2015
<b>Treasurer</b>	Deborah Knutson	2014-2015
<b>Past President</b>	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 McConnell		2015-2017
Mary Margaret Haugen		2015-2017
Alex Gedstad		Honorary Trustee

# WONDERFUL FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION AT THE FLOYD!



# THE SILENT SENTINELS OF CAMANO ISLAND

It is common knowledge that logging was an early and important industry on Camano Island. Virgin forests were inalterably changed by the timber speculators, using the power of ox teams and later steam powered donkey engines. Areas once dominated by the majestic Douglas fir were supplanted by western hemlock, maple and alder in the aftermath of aggressive cutting. Walking the trails of the parks and preserves on the island today, one is struck by the massive stumps of Douglas which once held the old growth. They dot the forest landscape today acting as historic markers—silent sentinels of the island's primordial past.

Your attention might also be attracted to the state of these stumps today. A good many, seemingly the majority, of the stumps show the sign of charring by fire. Native peoples including the Kikialos and Snohomish on Camano, used fire when felling a large tree. But, while the Salish people might have used fire, it does not totally explain the prolific pattern of burnt Douglas stumps scattered throughout Camano.

The large quantities of waste generated by the early loggers, called slash, contributed to a series of fires which swept Camano and nearby Whidbey from the 1860s into the 1930s. Historian Richard White wrote of the wasted timber, describing how loggers began their cuts of the giant old growth trees (initially Douglas fir) ten to twenty feet from the tree's pitch-infused base and often discarded everything after the next forty to fifty feet. Felled trees were discarded if they shattered upon impact or if they showed signs of disease such as Red Ring Rot. A buildup of slash on the forest floor smothered some Douglas seedlings. This, combined with fires which could then burn hotter, led to a spread of less susceptible species such as western hemlock and alder. "Logging, then," wrote White, "not only brought fires that killed standing timber, it changed the local species composition of the forest."

In 1891, a fire near the township of Utsalady burned a swath of five miles across the island in 24 hours. Three years later 800 acres were lost on Camano. Headlines in 1895 as far away as Ohio and Tennessee proclaimed, "The Northwest on Fire." A protracted dry spell that year led to a rash of fires which ravaged western Washington in late summer. The San Francisco Chronicle reported a pall of smoke around Puget Sound which grew thicker each day. The counties of Whatcom, Skagit and



*In the 1900s, blackened stumps were numerous in nearby Cedarhome, where more than one fire spread through the logged off areas.*

Island were particularly hard hit destroying the livelihood of many farmers on Camano. In August 1901 Camano was "besieged" by forest fires which destroyed several logging camps including Cavelero's camp on the island's east side. A lack of rainfall was again cited as the problem. Flames again raged across Camano, north and south, in September of 1906. At least three homes and the Bay View Hotel were destroyed by an inferno, desperately fought by residents, which threatened the complete destruction of Utsalady. A year later an Alaska paper reported 20 homes lost on Camano, many of them near the township by the same name. Resident George Roop of the "fireridden" area saved his furniture by burying it in an old well. Camano's fire problems grabbed headlines again in 1911, 1915, 1920, 1927 and 1935 laying waste to thousands of acres.

The drought declarations for 2015 issued by Governor Jay Inslee now cover nearly half the state. Predictions of a "fierce new fire season" include much of western Washington. According to Washington Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldberg, U. S. fire seasons are now consuming twice as many acres as they did in 1990. Goldberg cautions against believing that hotter and dryer conditions are in the future, adding that "the future is now."

To the early timber speculators and farmers, the lush forests of the Northwest were obstacles to

progress or mere resources to exploit. Today, the actions of 19th and early 20th century loggers seem distant and easily dismissed as the negligence of the times. However, there is recent evidence on the fair isle of Camano that some homeowners prefer to create new piles of slash rather than dispose of downed trees felled either on private or public property. The difference in scale might suffice for an excuse and expediency most certainly is the rationale; let the forest take care of it. However, the slow but steady encroachment of climate change with its altered weather patterns and spreading drought, demands a change in our thinking as well, not only for more distant parts of the U.S. but even here in Washington. In a time when state resources are being pressed to sustain the innumerable lives that depend on them, perhaps it's better to leave the environmental irresponsibility that created the problems in the past where they belong.

by Richard A. Hanks

(Sources: Richard White, *Land Use, Environment, and Social Change*; Karen Prasse, *Camano Island*; *Everett Daily Herald*; *Seattle Post Intelligencer*; *Seattle Daily Times*; *Bellingham Herald*; *Juneau Daily Record*; *San Francisco Chronicle*; *San Francisco Call*; *Wenatchee Daily World*; *The News Herald* [Hillsboro, OH]).

### Seeking Photographs of Mayors

The City of Stanwood is planning to create a gallery of portrait type photographs of the Mayors of Stanwood and East Stanwood to be on "permanent" display at City Hall. They have asked us for their help. The City has some photographs of recent mayors but some past mayors are missing. And we (SAHS collections) have a few to add.

But to complete the gallery, we are taking the unusual step in asking the public to help us locate copies of portrait type of photographs from this list:

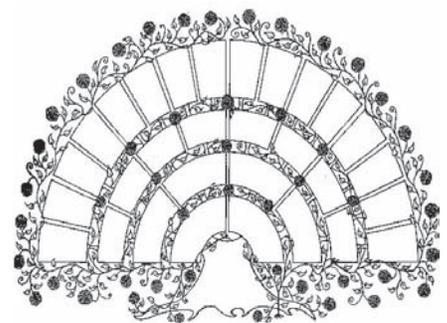
- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| A.B Klæboe         | Albert C. Moe   |
| George Ketchum     | Charles Yngve   |
| L. H. Jacobson     | Harold Greer    |
| Nels Olsen         | James J. Hansen |
| Charles Dockendorf | Ira Armintrout  |
| O. E. Thompson     | John G. Hanson  |
| Ed Bryant          |                 |



HOURS	
Wednesday	1pm - 4pm
Friday	1pm - 4pm
Sunday	1pm - 4pm

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

### 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



The 2015 Stanwood Area Historical Society Tea Committee consists of:

*(Seated, left to right)*

Pat Bronson

Gail Ryer

Janet Mayer

*(Standing, left to right)*

Janet Utgard

Penny Buse

Kathy Uroff

Sandy Robinson

Joan McConnell

Vivian Henderson

Rose King

Maria Gedstad

Mary Margaret Haugen

Janet Larson

They did an outstanding job for a sold out crowd, so mark your calendars and make your reservations early for next year at (360) 629-6110.

**April 16, 2016 • 12:30pm • \$20/person**

## HONORING DR. DOROTHY ANDERSON

At least a third of the estimated 150 attendees at this year's Spring Tea and Vintage Fashion Exhibit had memories of Dr. Dorothy Anderson, all creating a picture of a woman ahead of her time. Anderson, who died in 1996, was being honored for her years of service and care to the Stanwood Community. She became the first woman doctor in Stanwood when she began her practice in 1947.

A bit of a women's libber, as one participant remembered, she could also be stubborn and obstinate according to her son Tom, but with a practical common sense. He recalled her reticence at being called to tend for the wounded in bar fights since she never got paid. In one such event, the police officer on the scene reached into the pocket of an unconscious inebriate needing treatment and gave Anderson a wad of bills adding that the patient would not remember.

A Stanwood firefighter recalled rushing the doctor from a church service to attend a man in Warm Beach who had stopped breathing. Although well before the common usage of CPR, the doctor instructed the fireman to begin chest compressions noting that, "well, it does work." Others remembered Anderson's inventive use of hypnosis for mothers in childbirth or her intervention to secure a coveted job for a patient.

Dorothy Brand Anderson was born in Bellingham on March 17, 1913 and died there 83 years later. Her degrees were earned at the University of Washington and the Women's Medical College in Philadelphia. Bouts of Tuberculosis slowed her studies but she graduated in 1941. She married Richard Anderson September 10, 1944 and three years later, after internships in Seattle, they moved to Stanwood.

Doctor Anderson's early dream was to have been a missionary and for a year after closing her office in 1977, she worked for the people of Nicaragua. The people of Stanwood, however, already knew the benefits of her mission with them.

## SAHS Memorials & Donations

*In Memory Of:*

**Betty Ann Zurlo Ely** - Margaret Utgard

**David Hanson** - A. Loren & Patricia Kraetz

**Theresa Moa** - Dennis & Shirley Anderson

**Lois Thompson Robb** - Carl & Nancy Garlow,  
Margaret Utgard

**S. A. Sandberg** - Rev. L. H. Sandberg

**Douglas Scheidner** - A. Loren & Patricia Kraetz

**Marion Turner** - Ben & Peg Nelson



## AT THE FLOYD

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!  
OUR HISTORY & HORS D'OEUVRES  
PROGRAMS RESUME IN THE FALL**

**September 20th • 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.**  
*History and Hors d'oeuvres*

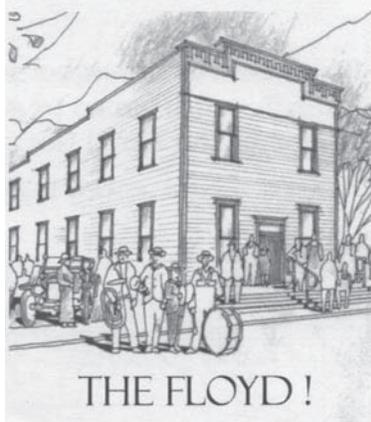
**October 18th • 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.**  
*History and Hors d'oeuvres*

**November 15th • 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.**  
*History and Hors d'oeuvres*

## The Floyd is Available for Rent

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.



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Premier Title of Island County • Tony Hewlett  
State Farm Insurance, Leslie Tripp**

### 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.

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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.*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership: <b>\$20.00</b>         | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Individual Membership (+65 yrs of age): <b>\$100.00*</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership: <b>\$25.00</b>             | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Plus Individual Membership: <b>\$20.00</b>               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (Under 15) Membership: <b>\$5.00*</b> | (*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

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