

STANWOOD AREA ECHOES

Newsletter of the Stanwood Area Historical Society

P.O. Box 69

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Stanwood, WA 98292

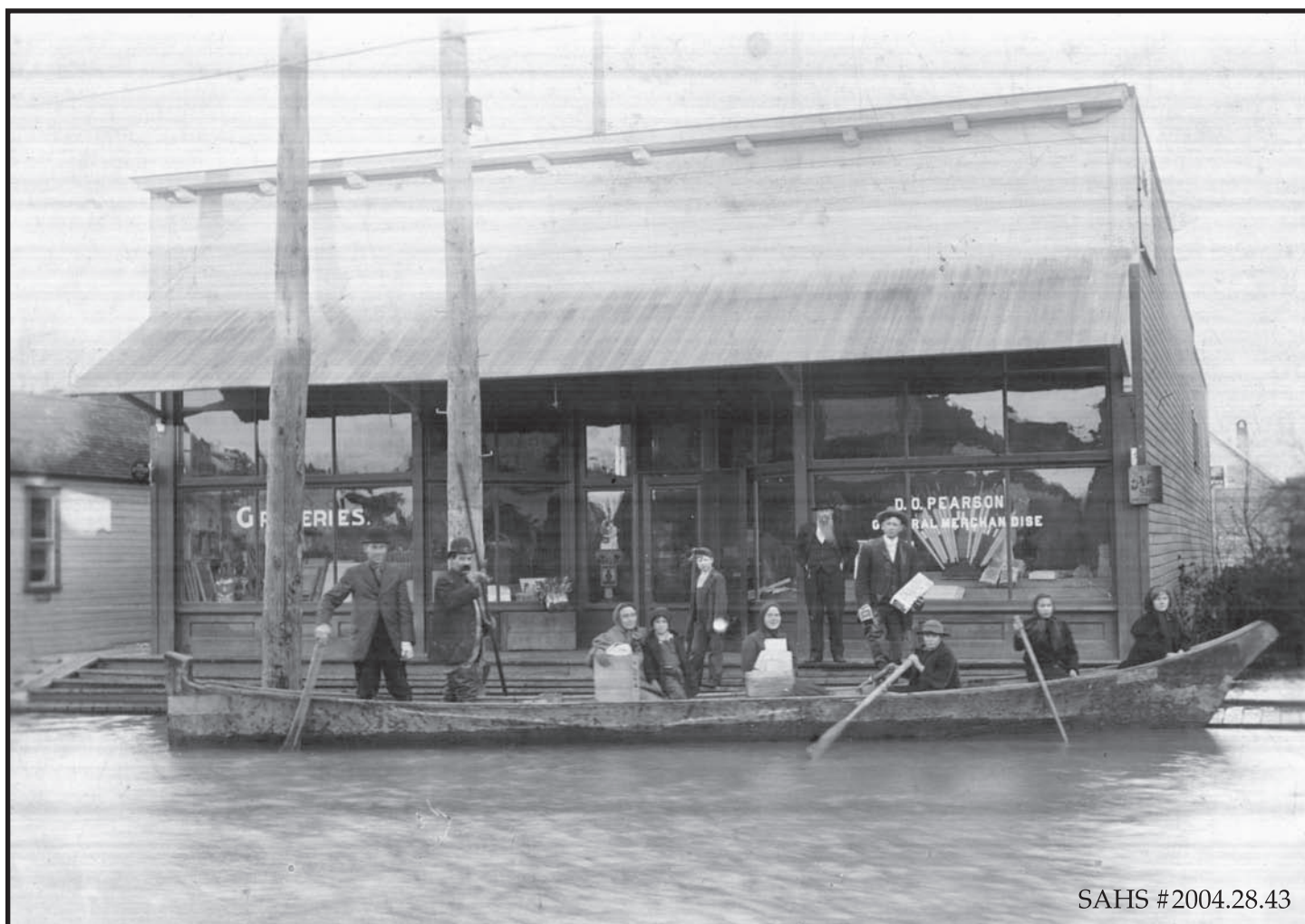
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Stanwood Area Echoes

Issue No. 49 : Winter, 2016

COAST SALISH CANOE IN FRONT OF D.O. PEARSON'S STORE CA. 1908



SAHS #2004.28.43

A traditional Coast Salish canoe used to navigate the flooded waters of Stanwood ca. 1908 by residents seeking supplies. D. O. Pearson and his son Fred are seen standing outside the canoe in front of their store, which was built in 1905. Carved from western red cedar, Native canoes of this area generally ranged from 14 to 26 feet in length. They

were a center piece of the social and spiritual life of the Salish people of the Puget Sound. One such "Grandmother" was returned to the Stillaguamish Tribe in October 2015 by the Stanwood Area Historical Society after 23 years in storage, restoring a vital piece of tribe's cultural heritage.

(See Story on Page 3)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends:

Another December has come and gone at the Historical Society, and it was both productive and festive.

We began the month with the first-ever Giving Tuesday, and we want to thank our wonderful donors who contributed generously to our campaign to replace the rotten windows in the Pearson House. We made enough to get started on this project and will continue to accept gifts for their ongoing replacements.

We enjoyed our annual Christmas Party at The Floyd with food, music, gift baskets, and lots of laughs. The decorations, as always, were spectacular, and I want to thank all the people who worked so hard to make it such a beautiful place for the holidays. Sandy Robinson and Janet Mayer spearheaded this group. The hall looked so Christmassy and special for Santa's visit on December 6 for the more than 350 children who received gift bags and free Santa pictures. Close to 1000 people came through the complex on that day. It was a pleasure to partner with the Stanwood Chamber of Commerce and Josephine to provide this event for the community.

On December 21st, Jeffrey Cohan and his group of musicians and singers made their annual holiday visit to The Floyd. Their mix of classical, traditional, and jazz favorites is always a high point of the holiday season. We also had a marvelous musical program on January 24th presented by the Spiritus Winds Quintet.

One of the biggest changes at the Historical Society complex is the remodel at the History Museum that is still in progress. The Society received a \$4000 grant from the Snohomish County Heritage Commission to make repairs and renovations. These included painting and repairing the ramp and adding new lighting and a picture hanging system so all the pictures of graduating classes could be displayed. Many, many thanks to Dave Eldridge, John Smistad, and Cliff Larson for the hundreds of hours of labor that they donated to get the components of the system installed. We had previously had to repair the roof and damage from leaks. We are looking forward to a very special

grand opening later in the spring so everyone can see the improvements.

Coming up on February 6th is a very special evening with the South End String Band entitled "*Camano in a Clamshell - A Short But Absolutely True History of Camano Island.*" We also hope to see many of you at our "H and H" presentations beginning March 13th. Penny Buse has some excellent programs planned. You will also read elsewhere in the newsletter and on our website about our upcoming Sock Hop on March 19th and our Spring Tea and Fashion Show on April 16th. We hope to see you at any or all of these events.

*Sincerely,
Gail Ryer, President
Stanwood Area Historical Society*

Stanwood Area Historical Society January 1, 2016

OFFICERS TERM (2Yr)

President	Gail Ryer	2015-2016
Vice President	Dan Lien	2016-2017
Recording Secretary	John Smistad	2015-2016
Corresponding Secretary	Margaret Utgard	2016-2017
Treasurer	Dave Eldridge	2016-2017
Past President	Larry Lien	
Newsletter Editors	Richard & Robin Hanks	

TRUSTEES TERM (3Yr)

Penny Buse	2016-2018
Louis Stangeland	2016-2018
Janet Mayer	2014-2016
Sandy Robinson	2014-2016
Margaret Utgard	2015-2017
Pat Bronson	2015-2017
Vivian Henderson	2015-2017
Mary Margaret Haugen	2015-2017
Alex Gedstad	Honorary Trustee



Above are witnesses Penny Buse and Viola Spencer, Tribal Chairman Shawn Yanity and SAHS President Gail Ryer, following the ceremony celebrating the return of the canoe. On the upper right, the Stillaguamish tribe loads the canoe onto the flatbed, securing it to a specially made cradle. The photo on the right shows them circling the block so they could pass by the Stanwood Area Historical Society on their way to their new tribal administration building, where the canoe will be displayed in a place of honor.



END OF A LONG JOURNEY

It was a day of appreciation, cultural respect and some happy tears. A lost member of the Stillaguamish tribe was going home. The shovel-nose cedar canoe, stolen in the 1960s, was returned to tribal representatives during a ceremonial gathering in October 2015 at the Stanwood Area Historical Society. It is estimated that the 28-foot-long dugout was carved in the mid-1800s and remained in use until the 1950s. It was taken from a riverbank along the Stillaguamish River and became a display at a Camano Island home.

The Historical Society purchased the canoe at an estate sale in 1992. Board member Penny Buse discovered the story of the canoe's illicit removal and worked over several years to return it to its rightful owners. "The canoe has been on a long journey," she told a reporter. "We are so thrilled it's finally going home."

The canoe has undergone some conservation work by Linda Roundhill of Art and Antiquities Conservation. This iconic representation of Stillaguamish culture will be on display during the grand opening of the new Stillaguamish tribal Administration Building starting at 10 a.m. on February 24, 2016. The Administration Building is located at 3322 236th Street NE in Arlington. Tribal Archives Specialist Tracey Boser says that it will have a place of honor beneath a mural of Mt. Higgins and the Stillaguamish River in the atrium of the facility.

Stillaguamish tribal chairman Shawn Yanity told the October gathering of roughly 60 people that "there are teachings in this canoe. . . . We are alive and strong."

By Richard Hanks

THE PRIDE OF NORWAY VISITS STANWOOD

In 1908, the New Year's ball dropped for the first time in Times Square on January 1st, the Chicago Cubs played for the last time in the World Series and \$825 could buy you a newly produced Ford Model T. And on March 22, 1908 Stanwood enjoyed a special visit by one of the world's great explorers, Norwegian Roald Amundsen.

His Stanwood stop was sandwiched inside a speaking tour intended to raise funds to finance a planned trek to the North Pole. He spoke before packed houses in Tacoma, Seattle and Bellingham among others. Although his itinerary did not list the small town on the Stillaguamish River, its attraction could not be overlooked. It was home to a large Norwegian community and its mayor Andrew Klæboe was from the same native district in Norway as Amundsen. Local history cites Amundsen and Klæboe as classmates in their homeland but if true, there was a marked age difference of twelve years. They did both attend Christiana University in today's Oslo where Klæboe studied drugs and Amundsen medicine, but Klæboe had immigrated to the United States by the time Amundsen was old enough to enter the school.

Amundsen left his studies at the age of 21 and began working as a deckhand. He advanced to ship's captain mounting expeditions to the Arctic and in 1905 won international acclaim by navigating the Arctic Ocean, crossing from the Atlantic to the Pacific via the long-sought Northwest Passage. Klæboe managed stores in Wisconsin and South Dakota before migrating to the Pacific Northwest in 1888. He began the first drugstore in Stanwood which was only the second to exist in Snohomish County. From 1896 to 1899 he owned and operated the Occidental Pharmacy in Juneau, Alaska during the gold rush, before returning to Stanwood and opening the Klæboe Drug Store in a storefront of the new Bank of Stanwood building on Market Street. He was elected mayor of the town in 1905.

City representatives and a large group of citizens gathered at the Great Northern depot to greet Amundsen and manager Harry Randall who arrived on the noon train. Sigurd Hall, president of the Scandinavian Society (later Sons of Norway) gave the welcoming address. A large number of the rural population surrounding Stanwood were sons of Norway, he said, but had become "loyal subjects of Uncle Sam." Amundsen was welcomed



Roald Amundsen

as a "distinguished countryman" whose "achievements add another chapter to the history of Norwegian adventure, navigation and discovery."

A select group of city leaders entertained Amundsen at dinner which took place in the home of Perry Babington. That home today stands at 27115 102nd Ave. NW (Market Street) across from the Pearson heritage home. The Opera House inside the Fraternal Hall (today's Floyd Norgaard Cultural Center) was filled well before it was time for Amundsen to speak. Mayor Klæboe rose to introduce their honored guest. He praised the courage of the explorer who had gained "an immortal name in history" for having found the northern route between the two great oceans, succeeding where so many had failed. "It remained for a native son of OLD NORWAY to pick that plum!" Klæboe proudly proclaimed.

Amundsen then led his eager audience

along the route of his famous excursion illustrating the course with maps and views on canvas. "The Eskimo villages and their mode of living were especially brought out by the speaker," reported the *Stanwood Tidings*.

With news of Robert Peary and Frederick Cook's successful expeditions to the North Pole in 1909, Amundsen diverted his attention to Antarctica and the South Pole which he achieved in December 1911. In 1926 he and pilot Umberto Nobile became the first to overfly the North Pole in an airship. Insufficient documentation by Peary and Cook has led historians to question whether their claims were realized. If so, then Amundsen would be the first man to reach both poles. Amundsen joined in a rescue effort in 1928 to locate Nobile's airship which was missing during another flight to the Arctic. Nobile and his crew were later found but Amundsen's search plane never returned. Some debris was later discovered but the bodies of Amundsen and his crew members were never located. An ending probably Amundsen himself would have approved of and befitting the Norwegian heritage he represented.

by Richard Hanks

(Sources: Alice Essex, *The Stanwood Story*, Vol. II; *The Columbia Encyclopedia*, second ed., 1958; Bruce Henderson, "Who Discovered the North Pole," *Smithsonian Magazine*, April 2009 (online at Smithsonianmag.com); *Illustrated History of Skagit & Snohomish Counties*, 1906; William Whitfield, *History of Snohomish County*, 1926; *Stanwood Tidings*, March 1908; *Bellingham Herald*, March 1908; *Olympia Daily Recorder*, March 1908; *Seattle Daily Times*, March 1908.

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

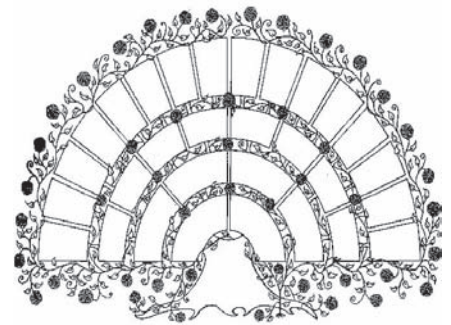
SAHS Memorials & Donations

In Memory Of:

Larry Wheeler - Elmer & Gladys Norgaard Family Trust
Christopher & Minnie Olsen - Clayton & Joann Olsen
Lucille Utgard Giese - Margaret Utgard
Margaret Logan - Margaret Utgard



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.

Fred Cruger from the Granite Falls Historical Society will be at the February 1, 2016 meeting to do a mapping software demonstration.

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

OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS

For sixteen years, the Stanwood Area Historical Society and the Stanwood Chamber of Commerce have co-sponsored an Old Fashioned Christmas. This year we added Josephine as a co-sponsor to recognize their generous support over the years. The first year we had about 20 children visit Santa and we held the event at the theater mall. The next two years we had this event at the Pearson House until we outgrew that venue. For the past



thirteen years we have held this event at The Floyd and we now have 350 children and their families visiting Santa and enjoying our craft tables where the children could make ornaments and cards. We estimated 1,000 people enjoyed this four-hour holiday celebration. This year we also offered tours of the Pearson House and the exhibit on the second floor of The Floyd. We thank the many volunteers who helped with this event and all the other activities we offer at the Stanwood Area Historical Society.

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.

THANKS TO ALL THE BUSINESSES WHO SOLD OUR 2016 CALENDARS!

On Camano Island at:

Camano Island Coffee Roasters at the Marketplace

Elger Bay Grocery

Camano Plaza Market

In Stanwood at:

Stanwood Camano News

Duck In Café

Snow Goose Bookstore

Stanwood Hardware

&

In Silvana at:

Silvana Meats

Willow & Jim's Cafe

Spa Violet Ray



AT THE FLOYD

February 6th • 7 - 10 p.m.
South End String Band

March 13th • 4 - 6 p.m.
History and Hors d'oeuvres

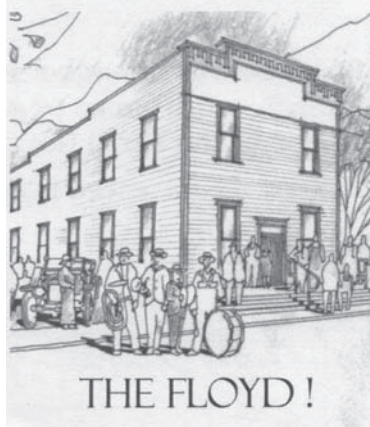
March 19th • 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Let's Go To The Hop
(Presale Tickets Available)

April 16th • 1 p.m.
Spring Tea & Fashion Show
(Reservations Required)

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

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



Stanwood Area Historical Society Presents:
LET'S GO TO THE HOP!



Saturday • March 19, 2016

6:30PM - 9:30PM

\$20 per person or \$35 per couple

For Tickets Call 360-629-0562

Only 100 tickets available!



Music with DJ Caroline Sides
Dancing, Games & Contests
Local Sports Films of the Period
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Available for Purchase

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27130 102nd Ave NW

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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**

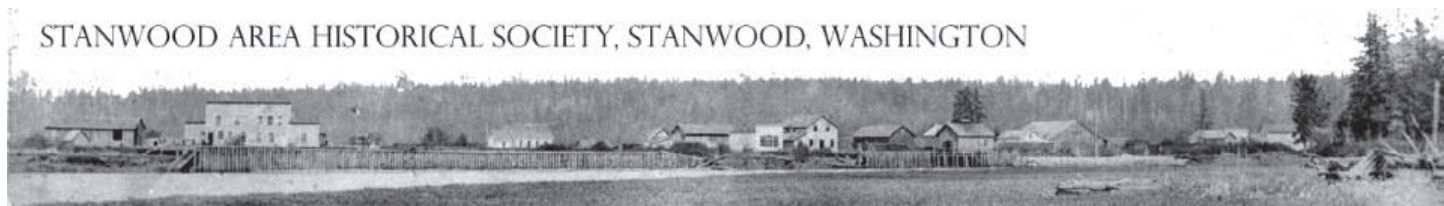
☐ Lifetime Individual Membership (+65 yrs of age): **\$100.00***

(*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 Photographer: G. D. Horton, circa 1886, Stanwood Stillaguamish River Waterfront

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