

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. 48 : Fall, 2015

STANWOOD'S EARLY AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 92



AN EARLY BANQUET -- Easily recognizable in the above picture are Harry Ryan, Harold Knutsen, Cliff Myron, Chris Simonson, Doc Hill, Ben Willard, Frank Obenhofer, Art Knudson, Harold Carlson, Charles Simonson, Nils Anderson, Fred

Ketchum, Clyde Tolin and a host of others that you may know. It was one of the first banquets by the local American Legion Post in January, 1933.

Alice Essex
The Stanwood Story, Vol 2

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends:

It seems impossible that summer is really over, and fall is upon us, but it's a fact, and as usual we are very busy at the Stanwood Area Historical Society. We held our first "H and H" (History and Hors d'oeuvres) in September and heard an excellent presentation on Silvana Area Schools with local historians Loren Kraetz and Sue Walde. We are so lucky to have these wonderful presenters. On October 18, we had our second H and H of the season. The presentation was "Tugboats of Puget Sound" with award-winning maritime historian, Chuck Fowler and it was a big success. Next month we will have our final H and H for the fall, starting up the programs again in the spring. Join us on November 15 for hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and a great program put on by Penny Buse. Check our website for more details on the November program.

On September 24, at our annual general meeting and election, Dan Lien was re-elected vice president, and Dave Eldridge was elected to succeed Debbie Knutson as our new treasurer. Their new terms begin in January. Many thanks to Debbie for her years of service. She assures us she will still be around and active. Next September we will elect a new president and secretary. We also want to thank Joan McConnell, Jim Joyce, Del Fox, Kathy Uroff and Bill Keller for their help on the Board of Trustees. Still serving on the Board are: Janet Mayer, Penny Buse, Louis Stangeland, Sandy Robinson, Margaret Utgard, Pat Bronson, Mary Margaret Haugen, Vivian Henderson, and our honorary trustee, Alex Gedstad.

On December 3 we will have our annual Christmas party, with all members, friends, and the community cordially invited to attend, so mark your calendars now. We will have special music, story-telling, carol singing, and lots of good food.

On December 5, we will partner with the Stanwood Chamber of Commerce and Josephine for a visit from Santa. Last year we had about 500 people come through and gave away 300 gift bags to children. There are free pictures with Santa, hot chocolate, coffee, cider, and cookies for everyone who comes. There will be volunteers who will help children make presents for their parents and other crafts. For some children who come through, these

gift bags will be their major gift for the holiday. Because so many people come through, we desperately need help with this. If you cannot come for the whole time, come for an hour or two. We need all the help we can get! Come between 9:00 – 2:00 and stay as long as you can.

Finally, after much of the madness of the holiday has calmed down, come and celebrate the holiday in late December with Jeffrey Cohan and "Jazzin' With the Classics at Christmas". It's a beautiful presentation of seasonal music of several kinds, and a chance to exhale and relax after the big day. We hope to see you at many of our activities this fall and early winter.

Gail Ryer, President

Stanwood Area Historical Society January 1, 2016

<u>OFFICERS</u>		<u>TERM (2Yr)</u>
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	
<u>TRUSTEES</u>		<u>TERM (3Yr)</u>
	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



The postcard photograph above of the H & H streetcar was among a group of photographs recently accessioned to our collection. There was no identifying information written on the back or photographer indicated. We believe the photograph was taken after the snowstorm of February 1916. On the left is a picture of the historic 1915 home of Conrad Lien next to the Sons of Norway building which we believe to be the house in this photograph.

A RECENT ADDITION TO OUR PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

Newspaper headlines announced the Northwest “paralyzed by Heavy Snow.” The storm on February 1 and 2, 1916 dropped over 21 inches on Seattle and an estimated three to five feet of snow on Stanwood. *The Seattle Post-Intelligencer* proclaimed that the “white menace . . . played havoc with the peaceful traffickings . . . of man.”

The H & H Railroad company was the mile long railroad that hauled goods and passengers from Stanwood to the Great Northern Railroad depot in East Stanwood. In the beginning, the H & H, built by John W. Hall in 1904, connected both the waterfront mills and passengers to the train station with the Stanwood Lumber Company its prime client. According to Alice Essex the ride for passengers was sometimes fearful but also wonderful, and residents loved having the little engine and its cars waiting to transport them across the “muddy mile” to Stanwood’s Main Street. Passenger service was discontinued, however, around 1918. The street car shown in the picture was purchased from the Seattle street railway company. The H & H operated when needed for freight in the 1930s and made its last run

in 1938. It was dubbed the “shortest railroad in the world” by news media of the day.

The few pictures which survive of the H & H provide a glimpse into that early period of Stanwood’s unique life. Images, such as the one exhibited here, provide additional information not only on the little railroad that could but the fierce weather which sidelined it for a time.

(Sources: Alice Essex, *The Stanwood Story*, vol. II; *Seattle Daily Times*, Feb. 2, 1916; *The Echoes*, Stanwood Area Historical Society newsletter, Issue 6, 1993.)

SAHS Memorials & Donations

In Memory Of:

Adaline Osborne - Norgaard Trust (Nancy Garlow)

Joe Harter - Norgaard Trust (Nancy Garlow)

Bob Arentzen - Norgaard Trust (Nancy Garlow)

New Lifetime Member: Margaret Ames

A POSTHUMOUS VICTORY FOR VETERANS' RIGHTS

Flags no longer snap in the wind atop the two rusty poles sitting back from the street just south of Highway 532, in a field adjacent to a Park and Ride. Nor do they call attention to the plaque sitting nondescriptly beneath them on dull, gray stone slabs. No one stops to read the name Frederick G. Eglinton which rises from that plaque or the sentiment it marks: Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 2586, 1932 – 1982. The memorial, however, carried the hopes of its benefactors that people might remember the young man from Bellingham whose name became synonymous with the Stanwood post for fifty years before its assimilation by nearby American Legion Post 92.

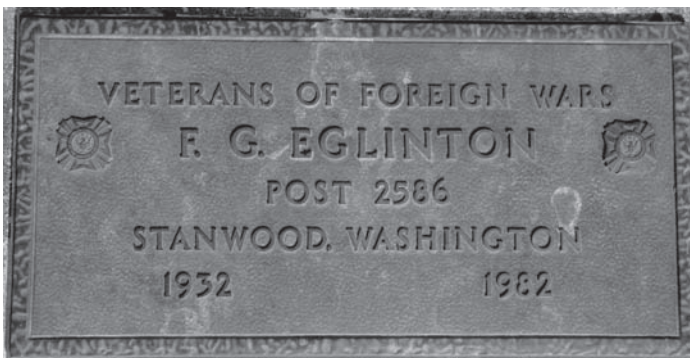
No words describe Eglinton's war disability or early death in August 1921 at the age of 23 or the pulmonary tuberculosis which ravaged his body a year before; a disease which Eglinton and his family directly linked to the gas attack in France he endured during World War I. Initially a member of the 2nd Coast Artillery of the Washington National Guard, Eglinton's unit was nationalized as the 65th Coast Artillery shortly after America's entrance into the global conflict. Eglinton was honorably discharged from his unit at Camp Lewis on February 28, 1919 upon his return from Europe. He lived for only another 29 months.

Eglinton filed a claim for insurance benefits shortly after his discharge citing his permanent disability. He had maintained his insurance policy with monthly payments during his military service which was to provide \$10,000 in benefits as mandated by the War Risk Insurance Act of 1914 and 1917 and administered by the Treasury Department of the federal government. However, the payments were never honored by the Bureau of War Risk Insurance.



Monument south of Highway 532, in a field adjacent to a park and ride

Although too late to benefit Frederick Eglinton, his parents, with the help of the American Legion state Adjutant Jesse W. Drain, sued the government in 1925 for the money owed their son claiming negligence or fraud by the Veterans' Bureau. Drain had been a lieutenant in Eglinton's unit in France and his growing reputation would mark him as one of the leading activists for veterans' rights on the Pacific coast. Through petition William and Trina Eglinton made Drain administrator of their son's estate and, as such, he joined in the lawsuit as a plaintiff. Newspapers claimed the suit the first kind of record in the federal court. The same year as the lawsuit, a columnist for H. L. Mencken's *American Mercury* magazine wrote that, "Congress little realizes that its creature, the Veterans Bureau, has probably made wrecks of more men since the war than the war itself took in dead and maimed."



Veterans of Foreign Wars, F. G. Eglinton, Post 2586, Stanwood, WA, 1932-1982

A year after filing, a federal jury awarded the estate of Frederick Eglinton the full amount of his policy along with a lump sum due the young soldier from the time of his discharge in 1919. William and Trina Eglinton remained active in their efforts on behalf of veterans of northwest Washington. The Stanwood VFW Post 2586 was dedicated on July 1932, coinciding with demonstrations in Washington, D.C. by World War I veterans, dubbed the Bonus Army, demanding early redemption of promised payments as many struggled during the Great Depression. Federal troops forcibly dispersed the veteran encampments killing at least three people. Although Fred Eglinton was not there with them, the lawsuit argued in his name puts him in the ranks of those who fought not only for their country, but for the rights promised them upon their return.

(Sources: *The Bellingham Herald*, 1921-1945; Federal census records, 1900-1920; Alice Essex, *The Stanwood Story*, Web posts from the *Whatcom County Genealogical Society*.)

**Stanwood Area History
Museum
&
D.O. Pearson House**

Operated By
Stanwood Area Historical Society
360-629-6110

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!**

**Thank You To All Our Sponsors
Please Support Them!**

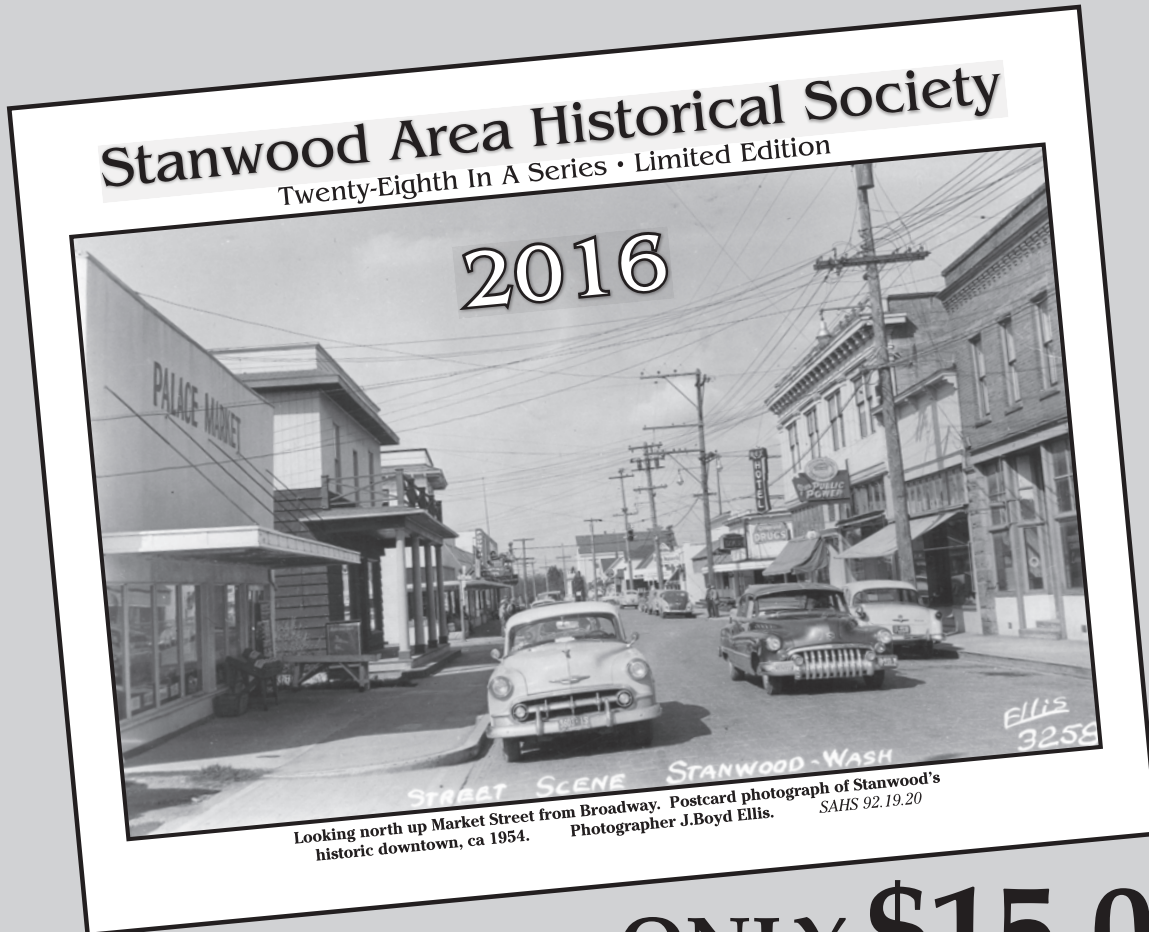
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Coastal Community Bank • Josephine
Washington Federal • Thomas and Associates
Carlson Trucking • Land Title Co
RE/MAX Assoc Brokers • Crowley Dental
Premier Title of Island County • Tony Hewlett
State Farm Insurance, Leslie Tripp**

**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

Get Your Limited Edition 2016 Calendar!



ONLY \$15.00

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Camano Island Coffee Roasters at the Marketplace

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Available in Silvana at:

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PLEASE SUPPORT THESE BUSINESSES

Our Thanks to the The UPS Store



AT THE FLOYD

October 31st • 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Adult Halloween Costume Party

\$10 per person (suggested donation)

November 15th • 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

History and Hors d'oeuvres

December 3rd • 7 p.m.

SAHS Christmas Party

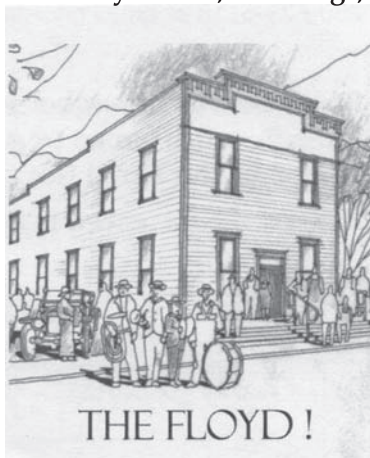
December 5th • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Old Fashioned Christmas

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.



Community Giving for Community Needs

Stanwood Camano Giving Tuesday is a 24-hour online giving event organized by the Stanwood-Camano Area Foundation & its planning partners to promote funding of projects sponsored by local nonprofit organizations that directly benefit the Stanwood Camano community. The Stanwood Area Historical Society will be participating this year! This event will take place December 1, 2015 from midnight to 11:59 p.m. (Pacific Time).

<http://stanwoodcamanogivingtuesday.org/>

Donations can also be made by cash or check at the Community Resource Center in Stanwood or Camano Center on Camano Island between the hours of 9 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Stanwood Camano

#GIVINGTUESDAY

December 1, 2015

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.*

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

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

STANWOOD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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