

# Stanwood Area ECHOES

Newsletter of the Stanwood Area Historical Society  
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*Stanwood Area Echoes*

Issue No. 60 : Fall, 2018

## BANK OF STANWOOD C. 1904



The Bank of Stanwood was a major achievement in 1904 as it was Stanwood's first bank and first brick building. The two story building on the southwest corner of Market Street (Pacific Hwy) & Broadway (Hwy 532) opened on August 4, 1904 and was sure to be one of the finest banking institutions in the county (*The Stanwood Story Vol I.*)

*For more on banking see page 3.*

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends:

It is always difficult to see behind the curtain when moving to a new area--those intangibles which make a community a home tend to reveal themselves over time. However, one of the first things my wife and I noticed after moving to the Stanwood/Camano area just a few short years ago was the strength and dynamism of those who volunteered their time and talents for myriad causes taken for the betterment of us all. Albert Schweitzer once said, "even if it is a little thing, do something for which there is no pay but the privilege of doing it. Remember, you don't live in the world all of your own." Words that could easily describe the generous residents of Stanwood and Camano Island.

Volunteers created the first state park on Camano in 1949, founded the Stanwood Area Historical Society in 1972 to save the Pearson Heritage home, and today raise money for the area's non-profits and operate food banks to support the more vulnerable among us. This personal philanthropy sets an example for not only the newest in our greater community but the youngest as well. These are lessons that continue to teach and inspire.

Such has been the case with the Snow Goose and Birding Festival that has become such a popular part of the area's identity. When we learned that the Festival was to be cancelled for 2019, we appealed to the community of volunteers to gauge interest in saving the event. The immediate outpouring of support was unanimous and deeply gratifying.

Attendance at our first organizational meeting included members from the Cama Beach Foundation, Friends of Camano Island Parks, Friends of Stanwood Parks and Trails, Sound Water Stewards, the City of Stanwood, our Historical Society plus motivated individuals. Special thanks to Cathy Wooten whose tireless efforts last year made the Festival a success. Her end-event report has become a valuable guide for our new committee and she has again stepped forward to lead the effort as a member of SAHS. We are seeing progress in securing speakers, sponsors, vendors and additional volunteers for another great Festival on February 23rd and 24th. If you would like to help with the Festival, please contact us at the Historical Society.

We will again celebrate the environmental wonders of our beautiful community on the Puget Sound and invite others to experience the rewards that lift the spirit and restore sanity to our often turbulent lives.

*Sincerely,*  
 Richard Hanks, President  
 Stanwood Area Historical Society

## Stanwood Area Historical Society Effective January 1, 2018

<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>TERM (2Yr)</u>
<b>President</b> , Richard Hanks	2017-2018
<b>Vice President</b> , Dan Lien	2018-2019
<b>Recording Secretary</b> , John Smistad	2017-2018
<b>Corr. Secretary</b> , Margaret Utgard	2017-2018
<b>Treasurer</b> , Dave Eldridge	2018-2019
<b>Past President</b> , Gail Ryer	
<u>TRUSTEES</u>	<u>TERM (3Yr)</u>
Penny Buse	2016-2018
Louis Stangeland	2016-2018
Janet Mayer	2017-2019
Sandy Robinson	2017-2019
Margaret Utgard	2017-2019
Ramona Snowden	2018-2020
Clifford Larson	2018-2020
Mary Margaret Haugen	2018-2020
Alex Gedstad	Lifetime Trustee
Pat Bronson	Lifetime Trustee
Newsletter Editors	Richard and Robin Hanks



## NAMING A BANK

There was a time when there really was a “home town” bank. Stanwood’s early banks were established by the same men who ran the local mercantiles, real estate or local industries. Over the last century these locally financed banks were slowly merged or acquired by larger banks. In Stanwood the corner of Market and Broadway (now S. R. 532) still has a bank, ironically evolving from Stanwood’s first bank, the Bank of Stanwood to a branch of the Bank of America, the 2nd largest bank<sup>1</sup> in the United States. The history of its historic bank buildings tells the story of banking industry evolution from small local institutions to global corporations.

One year after the incorporation of the City of Stanwood, the Bank of Stanwood was established by

its city fathers, H. C. Anderson (rancher and real estate investor), Peter Leque (former County Auditor/ Assessor, farmer), W. C. Brokaw (banker), Francis Giard and S. A. Thompson (store owner). Giard and Anderson made their riches in the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898. With their new wealth they formed the bank. It was located just a block from the Stillaguamish River waterfront where steamboats were still actively delivering and loading goods in spite of the new railroad that had by-passed the community one mile east 12 years



Street view of East Stanwood looking east towards the north side of the 271st Ave showing the First National Bank of East Stanwood’s first building. SAHS 94.02.03



Looking north on Market Street, the Bank of Stanwood is on the right, ca. 1915. Across from the bank is the John Hall’s Stanwood Transfer Company where passengers could board his H & H Railroad. The rail line’s tracks are visible in the street. The Masonic Hall building is seen in the background on the right. SAHS 92.41.160

before. Accounts of its success include how it weathered the 1907 Panic with a large cash reserve it had on hand “which inspired its patrons with confidence”<sup>2</sup>

Meanwhile in 1910 the People’s Bank of Stanwood was established near the depot side of Stanwood that was becoming known as East Stanwood. It was established “through the agency of the People’s Union”<sup>3</sup> founded by community members in 1895 who built its two story store and hall in 1906. East Stanwood was platted that same year (1906). The Greek Revival architectural style of the People’s Bank made it an anachronistic landmark in our historic street view photographs. Its first directors were local businessmen C. J. Gunderson, John Hals, H. P. Husby, J. C. Casperson, and Iver Johnson. In 1914 the bank’s name was changed to State Bank of East Stanwood. In 1930 it became a national bank

(Continued on Page 4)

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and its Board of Directors at the time included Peter Henning, C. R Amundson, I. A Rygg, Charles Yngve, L.M. Amundson. East Stanwood and the formation of this second bank is part of the story of the Stanwood - East Stanwood rivalry resulting in the incorporation of East Stanwood as a separate town in 1922 though only separated by one mile from the west end of Stanwood.

In 1948 a new one story building was completed for the National Bank of East Stanwood replacing the Greek Revival bank built in 1910. Eight years later in 1956 the National Bank of East Stanwood became a branch of the Seattle-First National Bank, four years before the communities would consolidate into one. The bank building became the Stanwood police station about 1992.

Back on the west side of Stanwood in 1919 a third bank opened. The Citizen's State Bank of Stanwood incorporated and was located on Main Street. Its directors included S. A. Thompson, Albert D. Hall, L.H. Jacobson (physician), A.L. Leknes and W.B. Davis (hardware store owner across the street)



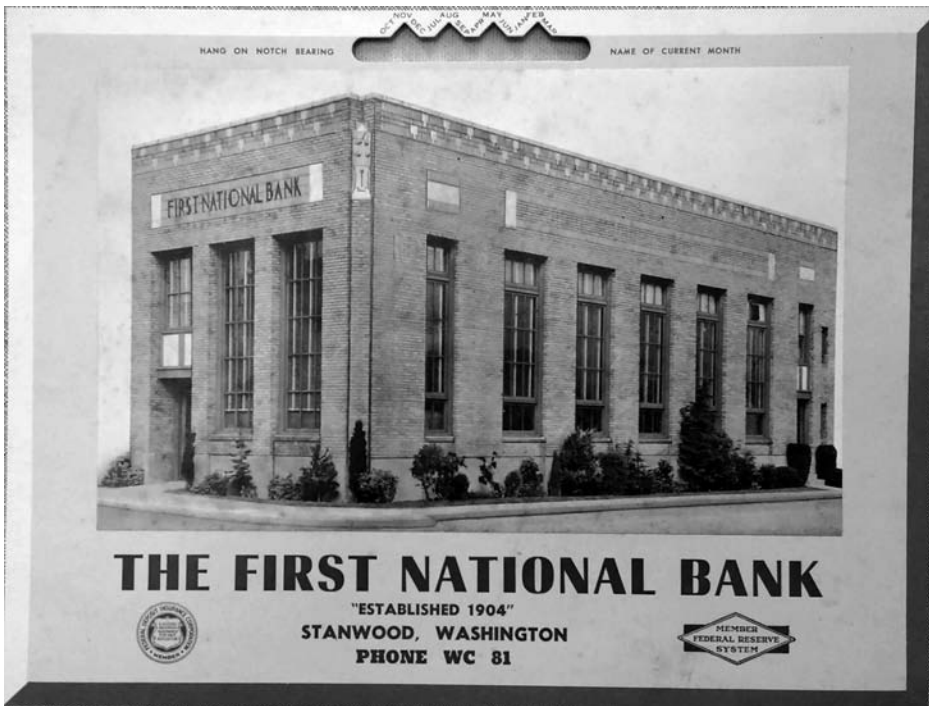
This image was taken about 1930 and on the left is the Peterson Building built in 1919 as the Citizens State Bank. They merged with new First National Bank, which can be seen down the street on the right hand side and this building became a dentist's office. These two buildings are examples of the early brick buildings and are still standing today.

It changed its name to the First National Bank of Stanwood in 1921.

In 1929 the original Bank of Stanwood became a national bank and was re-named the Stanwood National Bank. Effective January 1, 1930 the Stanwood National Bank and the First National Bank of Stanwood (formerly Citizen's State Bank) consolidated to be known as the First National Bank of Stanwood temporarily located in the one story building on the south side of Main Street that still exists today. The Board of Directors included C. W. Brokaw, D. G. Bennie (mill owner), S. A. Thompson, M. T. Brown, W. B. Davis, Francis Giard (former mayor of East Stanwood), W.G. Hanson and G. M. Mitchell (local attorney).

At the end of that year the First National Bank of Stanwood dedicated its new two story brick building across Main Street. All this occurred as the entire country was beginning to suffer one of the worst depressions of the century.

No longer a bank from 1930 until 1966, the original 1904 bank building on Market Street housed the Post Office and the telephone company. On the second floor Dr. L. E. Christofferson owned and operated the Stanwood General Hospital



The two story First National Bank building that is now the First National Professional Center, an office building. The image is from a promotional calendar of the First National Bank.



until it became apartments in 1948. It was purchased by local attorney William Bailey in 1937 and became known as the "Bailey Building." In 1966 it was torn down and a new one story "modern" First National Bank of Stanwood replaced it on the same corner. In 1978 the First National Bank of Stanwood became the Bank of Stanwood again and in 1984 it became a part of Rainier Bank. But the confusion of names continued when in 1989 Rainier Bank changed its name to Security Pacific Bank. In turn in 1992 Security Pacific was acquired by Seafirst Bank and finally the Seafirst building on the original banking corner of Stanwood in 1904 became the Bank of America in 1998.

As always, this is only a brief part of this story and we welcome anyone to share their memories or knowledge of the local banking history. Contact us at 360-629-6110 or info@sahs-fncc.org.

by Karen Prasse

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/the-largest-banks-in-the-us.html>;

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_largest\\_banks\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_largest_banks_in_the_United_States); accessed October 1, 2018

<sup>2</sup> Essex, Alice *The Stanwood Story*, Stanwood, WA., *Stanwood/Camano News*. 3 vol [1971-1997] (v. 1, p. 25).

<sup>3</sup> Washington State Historical Society. Finding aid for Peoples Bank of Stanwood papers, MsSC 154, 2007.77.82\_mssc154.pdf



**The Floyd Norgaard  
Cultural Center,  
The Pearson House &  
The Eldridge Center**

**Operated By**

**Stanwood Area  
Historical Society**

**360-629-6110**

**Research Wednesdays  
& Fridays • 1:00-4:00 pm**

**Open for Tours Anytime  
by Appointment**

**SAHS Memorials**

*In Memory Of:*

<b>Erling Skrinde</b>	Bill & Dolly Bowron Margaret Utgard Pat Lund
<b>Jim Lund</b>	Pat Lund
<b>Robert Nemo</b>	Laurie Ware
<b>Orville Hanson</b>	Laurie Ware

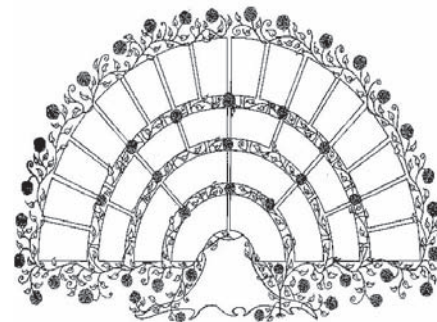
*In Honor Of:*

Twin City High School of 1958 Larry Lien

**SAHS Donations**

- Sally Newman
- Seattle Tacoma Horseless Carriage Club
- Robert & Donna Olsen
- Patrick Carroll

**Family  
History  
Researchers!**



Camwood Genealogy Workshop meets the FIRST Monday of each month at 1 p.m. on the 2nd floor of the Eldridge Center unless there is snow.

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



*These before and after photos illustrate the extensive and costly restoration that The Floyd has undergone.*



## NOVEMBER 27TH — A DAY OF GIVING

In 1902, a local group of Foresters built a beautiful hall for the City of Stanwood. For years this hall was used for the community's graduation ceremonies, lectures, vaudeville shows, lyceum programs, funerals, poetry readings, plays, recitals, dances, and boxing and wrestling matches.

One hundred years later, the Stanwood Area Historical Society and the Norgaard family bought the hall and saved this historic landmark so it could continue to serve as a community center for music, theater, arts and other cultural and family events.

Now we need to refinish the hardwood floors, repair the north wall and ultimately re-roof and repaint the structure. We will begin the project with a Swedish floor finish that is harder than wax and polyurethane and therefore less susceptible to scratches and stains.

We hold many public events each year and we also offer the hall as a rental for weddings, funerals, parties, festivals, meetings and educational opportunities. Rentals are a source of income for the Society which is necessary since we receive no public funding from any government entity.

On Giving Tuesday November 27, 2018, we hope that you'll put The Floyd on your list of donations. Help us restore this important cultural center of learning and memory for future generations.

SC  
GIVE

Nov. 27, 2018

#GIVINGTUESDAY • SCGIVE.ORG

**SAHS Board & Member Meetings -  
Please join us every month on the  
Second Tuesday at 4:00 pm on the  
second floor of the Eldridge Center.**

# EVENTS @ THE FLOYD

**Nov 10th • 11 a.m. - noon**  
**Veterans Day Celebration**

**November 18th • 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.**  
**History and Hors d'oeuvres**  
**Colonel Tracey Meck & Her Journey**

**Dec 1st • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**  
**Old Fashioned Christmas**  
**Photos with Santa, Crafts & Gifts**

**Dec 6th • 6 p.m.**  
**SAHS Members Christmas Party**

**January 12th • 7 p.m.**  
**Evening with the Hidden Stars**

**January 27th • 2 p.m.**  
**Piano & Winds Concert**

**February 2nd • 7 p.m.**  
**South End String Band**



"Like" us on  
**facebook.**

# RENT THE FLOYD



The Floyd Norgaard Cultural Center Public Hall is available for the arts, music, theater, cultural events as well as a banquet hall for family events, weddings, reunions, birthdays, & business meetings.

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

Call 360-629-3352 or 360-629-6110  
or visit [www.sahs-fncc.org](http://www.sahs-fncc.org).

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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 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.*

Individual Membership: **\$20.00**

Student (Under 15) Membership: **\$5.00**

Family Membership: **\$25.00**

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

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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