

Stanwood Area ECHOES

Newsletter of the Stanwood Area Historical Society
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Issue 69; Winter, 2021

OUR HISTORIC HOUSES WITH MANY LIVES:

S. A. Thompson House,
Camano Art Center and now the
Stanwood House



2005.06.04 Courtesy Richard Hagstrom, circa 1950? See next page for a history of the "Stanwood House" once known as the Thompson House and later the Camano Art Center

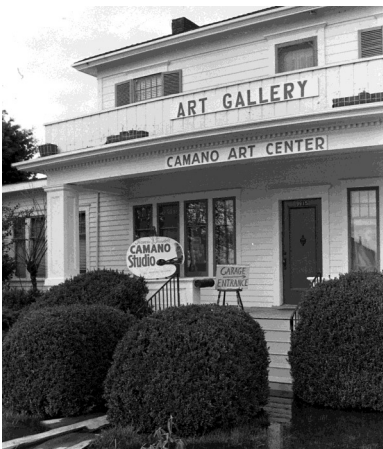
Frances Trusdell and her Camano Art Center House History

One of our longest surviving homes in Stanwood is the home built by Sven A. Thompson in 1905. Thompson was one of the town founders who had purchased the first pioneer mercantile from J. H. Irvine in 1888. He built his home just east of the store that was located on Main Street, our historic brick street. The original mercantile burned in 1978.

Thompson came to the area from Norway in 1888 and worked in the Irvine store, eventually bought him out and it was celebrated as one of the largest mercantiles of the area. He ran for Mayor in 1903 when the town was incorporated but lost to the other mercantile owner in town, D. O. Pearson, by two votes. He built his home about 1905 just east of the store. Thompson died in 1937 leaving the home to his daughter, Jessie.

In 1947 his home was sold to Les and Theresa Hagstrom whose son, Richard, donated the snapshot of the home in snow on the front page. The Hagstroms operated the Hitching Post Department Store that was originally the Thompson Store. Ten years later the Hagstroms sold the home to Frances and Richard Trusdell.

Frances Woitich Josephson Trusdell was born in Germany in 1897 and came to the United States in 1914 with her parents when she was about 16. At the age of 22 she worked as a "decorator" in Gary Indiana. In 1924 she married Einar Josephson in Indiana. Later she appears in the Census as working as a waitress and restaurant owner in 1940 in Indiana. She took art classes while her children were in school and still ran her restaurant. She learned ceramics, watercolor, acrylics but mostly painted in oil.



After completing optometry school her son Edgar moved to Washington State and soon wrote to his mother in 1953 about how much he liked it here. She followed him, moving to Camp Lagoon on Camano Island. There she had a small studio and began teaching. Soon some of her



ART OUTSIDE—Dozens of paintings and art objects are shown in this view of the Arts and Crafts exhibit last weekend at the Camano Art Center in Stanwood. Show, first to be held in

Twin City area, was rated a first rate success and sponsors were reported looking ahead toward a similar event next year. —News Photo

1,000 Attend Twin City Arts and Crafts Exhibit

Twin City News, August 21, 1958

paintings were shown at the Frye Art Museum and she won many prizes. In the meantime, in 1955, she met and married Richard Trusdell. Her ambitions outgrew that space and in 1957 they purchased the Hagstrom/Thompson House.

She wasted no time and immediately planned the first "Twin City Arts and Crafts Exhibit" in her yard where it was estimated 1000 visitors attended. There were awards for the "best" paintings and children could have their portraits painted. There were "artists in action" demonstrating their techniques in its third year. For a short time there was a Twin Arts and Crafts Club which helped sponsor it. The shows continued into the 1960s but when Richard Trusdell died in 1969 it had outgrown being able to be managed by one person and apparently there was no one willing to take on the work.

She continued to live in the Thompson home, now her Camano Art Center, and stayed active with her loyal following of painters in the area and continued teaching. Her subjects were mostly landscapes. One of her paintings (on the right) of the Stanwood Library is



(Continued from page 2)
colorful and welcoming.

Being interviewed in her later years she remarked how much she liked the Northwest—more than all the places she lived around the country. She said it reminded her of southern Germany. Her scenery paintings were popular and for a time she “couldn’t paint fast enough.” Vacationers would often go home with one of her paintings.

Frances Trusdell’s Camano Art Center survived for thirty years until she died at the age of 92 in Sept 1989. We are not sure if there were other owners but current owners, artists Chaim and Yonah Ben Levy, purchased it from Olen and Agnes McCalmon according to property records. And today the artists live in and continue their home’s tradition as an art gathering place known as the **Stanwood House (Stanwoodhouse.com)** which includes a gallery and ceramic/pottery studio.



“Mrs. Frances Trusdell Stands Among Her Painting in Their New Stanwood Home” *Twin City News, Oct 10, 1957*
 “1000 Attend Twin City Arts and Crafts Exhibit” *Twin City News August 21, 1958*
 “Camano Art Center feature gallery” *Stanwood News” May 23, 1973*
 John Dean “Stanwood’s resident artist still busy at 85” *Stanwood Camano News May 12, 1982*
 Carol Schmidt “Her Life at 90 years in an art form” *Stanwood Camano News May 13, 1987*
 “Who’s who is Stillaguamish Valley” *Achievement Number Stanwood Tidings, June 14, 1916. [p. 13]*

The picture above is of the first Stanwood Library painted by Frances Trusdell. It was called the Irvine Library for J. H. Irvine who established what became the Thompson Store. The painting is on display at the SAHS Tolin House gallery.



Last year, in spite of Covid-19, local volunteers were busy with our virtual **Historic Site Tour** of Stanwood and Camano Island—great audio and video stories of our history!
<https://historicsitestour.com/>

The Stanwood House Gallery, once the **Camano Art Center** and originally the Thompson House, is on the Historic Sites Tour if you would like to visit virtually and later when it can be open again. (Stanwoodhouse.com)



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Norwegian language book about immigrants from Trondelag Norway

Norwegian author Jostein Molde wrote us when he sent us a copy of his new book in exchange for a photograph we provided him.
 “Enclosed is a complimentary copy of my my book. The English translation would be “Nothing will be done until the Tronders arrive: the emigration from Trondelag, 1837-1930”The book is a gift in return of using a picture that you provided. To my dismay I discovered too late in the process that I had used the wrong picture ! You sent me a picture of the Norwegian Crown Prince Olav as he dedicated the stone marker.... But "I goofed up" on page 225 is the picture I used but the credit goes to you in any case....I hope you will accept my apologies. “
 We are happy to accept this copy of his book, not being a Norwegian speaker, we welcome visitors to see it when we open again.

Thank you to our Donors !

SAHS & FNCC Donations October—December 2020

Anna King Estate for the Gene King Family Memorial Fund
 Charles & Donna Cole Foundation
 Thomas Family Foundation
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 Hi & Pat Bronson
 Pamela Trojanoski & Robert Hall
 Phillip & Candace Trautman
 Linda Dilday


Floyd Norgaard Cultural Center Restoration Project 2020—Phase 1 includes December SCGive Donors

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 Carolyn Spector
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 Molly Alumbaugh
 United Way Employee's Matching Funds

Veterans Memorial Donations
 and Book Signing
 September - December 2020
 James & Barbara Joyce
 Janet Mayer
 Judy Pieper
 Dennis Anderson



Author and Historical Society member, Richard Hanks has published a new book: *Solemn, The Drums Thrill* inspired by his extensive research on those 50 local heroes honored in the Veteran’s Memorial.



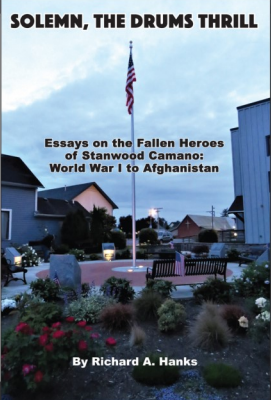
COYOTE HILL PRESS

IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THEIR NEW BOOK

AVAILABLE AT STANWOOD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY & AMAZON.COM FOR \$19.99

Never has a small community given so much for their country. These essays tell the story of average citizens who answered their country's call to defend itself. By serving their country's call they became much more than your average citizen! They all made the ultimate sacrifice so we may live in the greatest country of them all and enjoy the freedoms our forefathers granted us. Not all made it to the battlefield, in the skies, land or sea; it didn't matter. They all answered the call and were doing the job they were trained to do and they gave their all. These are their stories!

David M. Ballard, Commander, D/3, 187th Infantry, 101st Airborne, Vietnam, 1963
Stanwood High School graduate, 1963



SOLEMN, THE DRUMS THRILL

Essays on the Fallen Heroes of Stanwood Camano: World War I to Afghanistan

By Richard A. Hanks

Floyd Norgaard Cultural Center Restoration Project 2020

At this writing we can happily report that the Floyd Norgaard Restoration Project 2020 (Part 1) is in its last stages awaiting good weather for final touches and painting! Though 2020 will go down in history as one of worst years because of loss of our regular schedule of events, we anticipate that a vaccine and practicing social distancing/masks will bring us an opportunity to begin to re-schedule our activities and make use of this great building again. We have many, many people to thank for this success, most especially **ARA Construction, D G Hopkins Painting, Bill Keller, Jim Joyce and Richard Hanks.**

There will be a second phase involving repairs and painting of the exterior North Wall of the Floyd. We have applied for a grant from the Snohomish County's Historic Preservation Grant Program for 2021 to help complete this. But that will not cover it all so donations are still welcome! Almost finished with Phase 1—on to Phase 2 with your help!



Sponsors and Supporters for the FNCC 2020 Project & Programs

C.B. Transport Inc
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Del Fox Custom Meats
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In memory of Dennis Conroy 1925 - 2021

We rarely write memorials but in this case I thought a few people might remember Dennis Conroy who lived here from the late 1990s until about 2006. During that time he volunteered for SAHS and his contribution to preserving and interpreting our history was exceptional.

He was from Vermont and New York, retired from a career in foreign service, most notably with USAID but found his way here with artists Shirley Matzke and her daughter Karla Matzke.

He wrote articles for our newsletter, magazines and the book "Pioneers of the Stillaguamish" with Carol Ronken. He spent 2-3 hours per week cataloging a large portion of the new accessions during that time. He served as the volunteer general contractor on the preservation and rehabilitation of the Floyd Norgaard Cultural Center. Among his many volunteer efforts he participated in the early acquisition and documentation of the Cama Beach State Park, Iverson Beach County Park and volunteered also for FOCIP. He moved to

California in about 2006 and this month was a victim of Covid-19.

He was an expert kayaker and one of my memories of him was a kayak trip up Hatt Slough (Stillaguamish River). We were attempting to discover and explore the winding route through the north channel of the river to Stanwood. He wrote a lot of history about Florence and we were trying to see if we could re-trace the route steamboats were able to once navigate up the river. We could not get through because the channel became very narrow and was obstructed with fallen trees and portaging seemed too daunting. But it was a great journey having lunch upriver a bit and returning to the landing under the Bodle bridge. He has been and will be missed.

~ Karen Prasse, Volunteer SAHS



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Editorial Committee: Karen Prasse & Members of the Board

SAHS is a private, non profit organization (501c3) and receives no funds from the city or county. We welcome your support and membership. Newsletter writing, research, proofreading, layout are all done by volunteers. Please help support this publication and other projects and programs *with your membership dues*, newsletter subscription or sponsorship.

www.sahs-fncc.org.

Stanwood Area Historical Society 2021 Elected Officers & Board Members

President ~ Karen Prasse	2021-2021
Vice President ~ Bill Keller	2020-2021
Treasurer ~ Robin Hanks	2020-2021
Recording Secretary ~ Kathy Uroff	2021-2022
Corr. Secretary ~ Margaret Utgard	2021-2022
Past President, Richard Hanks	2021-2022

Trustees ~	
2021-23	Clifford Larson
2021-23	Joan Andrews
2020-22	John Smistad
2020-22	open
2019-21	Robert Branigin
2019-21	open
Honorary Lifetime Trustee	Pat Bronson

Business Manager ~	Diane Anderson
Facilities Custodian ~	Jaime King

Committees

- Buildings and Grounds Management & Maintenance
- Collections Management
- Docents, Volunteers, Education, Research Assistance
- Exhibits in the FNCC, Museum & Pearson House
- Finances, Fund-raising
- Membership
- Programs, Publications, Communications

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.

Membership Dues Notice

The fiscal year of the Historical Society is January - December. Dues are due in January for the following year.

If you have not submitted your dues for 2021, use our form from our website or newsletter back page. We have not sent out a mailing yet so consider this your reminder!

Thank You!

In Memory Of October—December 2020

John Robinson Mary Margaret Haugen, Rose & Jerry King

Dan Sill: Randi Crisp

Jim Lund: Pat Lund

Maurice Edlund: Pat Lund

Bill Williams: Margaret Utgard, Rose & Jerry King, Pat Lund

Lester Filion: Steve Youngren

Joann Olsen: Margaret Utgard, Steve Youngren

Robert A. Olsen: Clayton Olsen

William Stoken: Rose & Jerry King

Linda Utgard: Leif and Susan Holmes, Richard and Robin Hanks, Elsie, Mark, Steven Chandler Family



Volunteer Opportunities and Committee Activities

The members of the Board meet monthly to plan events and share information. They are public meetings so if you would like to be involved, feel free to contact us for details.

We welcome new and continuing members to visit and learn from our current volunteers. Volunteering helps us all to contribute and connect with the community and that advocacy and support is vital! Interest is the only qualification, bring your own local expertise and experience, share and learn with all of us. Although we are technically not yet open, we anticipate being open by appointment very soon. Contact info@sahs-fncc.org

New artifacts returned home.

We received some special new artifact donations from descendants of the Pearson Family this fall. Nancy Flynn who is a great granddaughter of D. O. Pearson visited returning many artifacts from the family home belonging to her mother Claire Pearson Payne.

Claire Payne was the daughter of Fred (son of D. O.) and Bertha Marshall Pearson. Fred managed the Pearson Store until about 1954. Claire grew up in the house and she had the many items from the store and this beautiful bookcase that held the family's books. The magnificent cabinet in the photograph belonged to Bertha's family and was remembered by Nancy as always having books. Thank you to the Pearson Family!



SAHS Activities & Highlights

We welcome the new year and as we watch the COVID-19 cases graph drop we hope to get our vaccines and be back meeting in person soon (though masked and social distanced for a while yet). Our museum will remain closed for another couple months but members are planning for resuming activities by late spring and summer so consider helping us. Our board meetings are being held on the 2nd Wednesdays at 11 a.m.

The FNCC Restoration Project (see p. 5) has occupied board members all year. Along with that has been the sale of one of our real estate properties and the removal of another. Our next issue will include more details on that but if you notice something looks different on 102nd Ave it will be the removal of a dilapidated house. The house was built about 1975, not considered historic and contained quite a bit of asbestos requiring special removal before being demolished. An anonymous donor has contributed special funds toward that effort.

We have not yet scheduled events for the year yet but that is in process by our programs committee. Rob Branigin, one of our trustees is coordinating the programming. We anticipate masks and social distancing requirement to continue so we are re-thinking how to manage them safely.

Grant fundraising is in process. In 2020 we received \$8,269 for operating expenses from the Washington State Arts Commission ArtsWA Cares Relief Grant prepared by Tracy Gilroy and Robin Hanks.

Thanks also go to Rose and Jerry King, Robin and Richard Hanks, Kathy Uroff, Bill Keller, and Diane Anderson who repaired and repainted the Pearson House back porch this year. We also thank volunteer Stuart Wyatt for tech assistance.

You may contact us for help with local and family history research help through email and we will refer or assist as we can.

Throughout the year of 2020 we appreciated the work of our landscaper/lawnmowing company **Candido Landscaping** who have cheerfully maintained gardens and lawns, though not as a volunteers nevertheless with exceptionally reasonable and reliable care. Thank you!

~ Karen Prasse, 2021 President

Please Renew or join now to participate and contribute your expertise and time to our re-opening later this year. Membership will guarantee you will receive our next newsletter with details of our programs, events and future plans.

Contact Us!

You can learn more about activities and events planned for the future (Covid permitting) in our social media links:

<https://thefloydnorgaard.weebly.com/>

<https://www.sahs-fncc.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/StanwoodAreaHistoricalSociety/>

<https://www.facebook.com/FloydNorgaardCulturalCenter/>

<https://www.instagram.com/thefloydnorgaard/>

<https://www.instagram.com/sahsfncc/>

Get Involved, Stay In Touch, Join the Stanwood Area Historical Society

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 during the month of January. This is a significant means of support for the Society and includes a subscription to the quarterly newsletter. Members help govern our society by providing assistance with programming, publications and planning for the future.

SAHS is a tax-exempt non-profit organization and depends for its financial support on gifts, bequests from individuals and groups, fund raising activities and membership dues. Your contributions are tax deductible to you and will be used in support of history education, exhibits and programs.

Individual Membership: \$20.00 \$ _____

General Supporting Donation: \$ _____

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In Memory of _____

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