

Stanwood Area ECHOES

Newsletter of the Stanwood Area Historical Society
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Issue No. 71; Summer, 2021

Big News! Our historic buildings and exhibits have now reopened.

The FNCC Hall is available to be rented and we welcome a new Executive Director for the first time
~ See inside!

The Floyd Norgaard Cultural Center restoration project is complete!

Thanks to All who participated in various ways on this project, especially project leaders Bill Keller, Jim Joyce and Richard Hanks. The exterior walls and windows are sealed, are more energy efficient and the painting is complete.

SAHS has re-opened with a new schedule for the museum exhibits and have begun renting for weddings, events, family occasions, business meetings, festivals under the leadership of our new director, Fred Poyner IV.

For those of you new to the area, the historic former International Order of Oddfellows Hall was an important early social gathering place in addition to the Odd Fellows 3rd floor meeting rooms.



Thanks to Hertz Rental who provided the lift truck so that ARA Construction and D & G Hopkins Painting could safely scrape, repair and repaint the north side of the hall. Thank you!

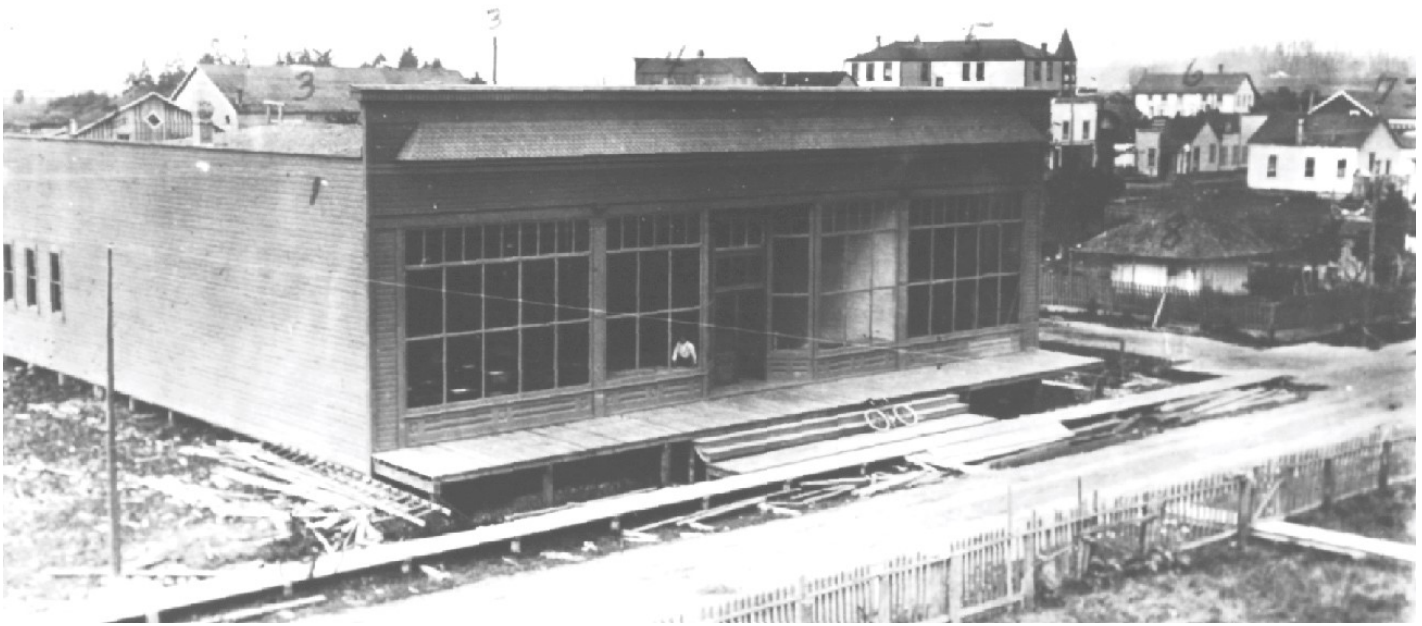


We have an early account of some of the activities at the Oddfellows Hall from Quentin R. (Bob) Davis who was the son of Wellington B. Davis, the early owner of the Stanwood Hardware Company on 270th (the brick street). Davis was a young boy when his father bought the hardware store and he wrote a colorful account of early life in Stanwood including his memories of the Odd Fellows Hall:

"On Saturday nights there usually was a public dance at the Odd Fellows

(Continued on page 2)

Stanwood Hardware & Furniture Company - A History



Above is an early Stanwood Hardware Company about 1902 in the era of planked sidewalks and roads, the brick road that still exists wasn't laid until about 1912. The Palace Hotel is in the distance on the right and the Pioneer Hotel in the distance beyond it. It was most recently known as the Stanwood Camano Home Center

Hall, music by more or less pick-orchestras which specialized in one and two steps, fox trots, interspersed with plenty of waltzes. Its patronage was principally the town's younger marrieds and singles, plus loggers and mill workers, while on the deck at the front door the drunks assembled, caging for drinks....While I was too young to attend the dances, I profited from them anyway. The hall was located next to one Dad's vacant lots, so Sunday mornings I would get out there early, six or seven o'clock, with a couple of gunny sacks, and collect the empty beer and whiskey bottles.Monday morning, I would take my collection downtown and sell them to the merchants at a penny a piece for the pint-sized bottles, and a couple of cents for quart sized bottles. They would be used by the merchants for filling vinegar, oil, kerosene and other liquids they stocked in kegs or barrels." Quentin R. Davis

Among the oldest surviving structures about the same era as the Oddfellows Hall is the building we now remember as the **Stanwood Camano Home Center** building on 270th St NW. It has always been a furniture or hardware store and was originally known as the Stanwood Hardware Company. The building is currently being remodeled by the Stanwood Camano Arts Advocacy Commission (SCAAC) as an arts center for the Stanwood Camano area. The building and funds

were donated by the Pusey Family Trust to serve as an Art Center to promote and support the local arts projects and integrate art into all aspects of the community. But as all old buildings do, it has an important history in this small town from its earliest days.

The hardware business in Stanwood began on the wharf by Melton A Goodykuntz who only stayed in Stanwood until he sold it to take over a hardware business in Everett (see Stanwood Story, v. 2, p. 94). Perhaps because the original hardware store was being crowded out by the nearby McLaughlin's shingle mill on the wharf, the incorporation of the town and business moving away from the waterfront, the local business investors established the Stanwood Hardware Co. In a 1970 interview with Dick Pusey, later owner of the business and building, he mentions finding a piece of shiplap slab of wood upon which is written with carpenter's pencil: "This building is constructed by Messrs. Plett, Paddock, Dahl and Dombo May 30, 1903."

Herman Hafstad who had worked in the Goodykuntz Hardware on the waterfront and Iver Johnson purchased an interest in 1902 after serving as Snohomish County Commissioner from 1898 – 1902. Both Hafstad and Johnson were on the first town council but both moved on and in 1906 (*Stanwood Tidings*, Oct 26, 1906) established a second hardware in Stanwood on Market Street (which became the Bryant Hardware

(Continued on page 3)

where the Food Bank is now located).

A "Mr Cotton bought out the Stanwood Hardware" about that time briefly and then it was sold to Wellington B. Davis in 1906. The reason for the sale may have had something to do with the recent sudden death in 1905 of the prominent Peter Leque who was President of the original Stanwood Hardware.



Wellington B. Davis

Stanwood Hardware Co.
Dealers in
HARDWARE AND FURNITURE
Farm Implements, Sash and Doors
Paints, Oils and Full Line of Building Materials
Furniture and House Furnishings
STANWOOD, WASH.

Labor Journal June 29, 1917

Wellington B Davis had moved to Washington in 1891. He was a Skagit school superintendent and teacher and served as clerk of Skagit County. He became a partner with the Davis Hardware company in Mount Vernon in 1903 which had a branch in Stanwood. A year later he and his new wife moved to Stanwood when Davis took over the Stanwood Hardware Co. Davis was a real estate agent and one of the town fathers, involved in the schools, City Council, and a director of the First National Bank at the time of Stanwood's incorporation in 1903.



Plett and Paddock, Carpenters & Builders, Stanwood, Wash.
SAHS Acc# 88.06.139.12

Stanwood Hardware Company
Hardware Furniture
Monarch Malleable Steel Ranges

The John Deere and Champion Mowers, Binders, Rakes and Tedders. Repairs always in Stock.

Beds, Springs, Rugs, Shades and Screens, Rockers, Chairs, Devenports, Baby Go-Carts and Carriages, Linoleum.

Washington Portland Cement, Lime, Lath and Plaster, Sherwin-Williams Paints and Oils, Standard Varnishes, Stover Engines, Meyers, Hunt and Helm & Ferris Hay Barn Equipment

De Laval Cream Separators, Stanchions, Stalls, and full line Dairy Barn Equipment, Fuller & Johnson Engines, Steam Fittings and Bath Room and Plumbing Supplies.

Iron-Clad Farm Wagons

We have the supplies, and are always glad to give you an estimate of the material and supplies for your building

Oil Stoves Sewing Machines

Advertisement in *Stanwood Tidings* "Achievement Number" June 14, 1918

"Mr Davis is a Booster" with a big B for the interests of Stanwood, and necessarily is a live wire as a member of the Stanwood Commercial Club of which he is Vice President."

When Davis retired in 1926 the business was sold to Mount Vernon Hardware businessman William Rafter as Rafter & Co. It became known as the Stanwood Hardware Company again when Samuel "Dick" and Gertrude (Gear) Pusey became owners. Dick Pusey had worked for Rafter and became the manager of the Stanwood store finally purchasing it in 1937, celebrating with a grant re-opening sale. It became known as the Stanwood Hardware & Furniture Company.

Gertrude Winnifred Gear Beal married Samuel Richardson (S.R.) Pusey Jr. in 1930 in Burlington (Skagit County). Gertrude Gear Pusey grew up in Burlington Washington. Her father Lester Gear and mother Winnifred (Winnie) came from Wisconsin to Skagit County to homestead. Samuel Pusey Sr., Dick Pusey's father, brought the family to Anacortes from Delaware sometime before 1920. He is first listed as a "millrite" in a lumber mill and later worked as the contractor "who had charge of the improvements East Stanwood's Lincoln High School" in 1928. His son, Samuel (Dick),

Rafter Hdw. Sold, Pusey New Owner

Former Clerk Becomes Proprietor, Has Best Wishes

S. R. Pusey, who has been manager of the Rafter Hardware Company announces this week that he has bought the interests of his former employer in the store, and that he now is the proprietor.

Mr. Pusey came here six years ago as manager of the company, and during his work here he has won many friends who wish for him continued success and prosperity.



S. R. Pusey, Purchaser
Rafter Hdw. Co.

began working then managing the Rafter's Hardware in Burlington for several years until Rafter purchased a second store in Stanwood and Dick Pusey moved to Stanwood. After a few difficult Depression years, Stanwood Hardware celebrated his grand re-opening in 1937.

Mr. and Mrs. Pusey operated the business selling the popular Monarch Ranges (wood cookstoves). In 1952 Pusey invested in a major re-modeling project. It had double strength glass windows along the front, and a wooden platform that had to be replaced every few years. He put in plate glass and concrete platform front and back, restored the foundations and put on the then popular asbestos shakes. In 1952 he still carried fireplace grates as well as Franklin stoves and oil heaters, tools, and handled orders from catalogs for dinettes and upholstered furniture, washers and dryers, Kelvinator and Gibson refrigerators, freezers and ranges, Sunbeam small appliances. The furniture business was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Merwin Wilcoxon in 1970 though the building was still owned by the Pusey Family.

The hardware building was inventoried in a 2007 Washington State Dept of Archaeology and Historic Preservation survey and determined not to be "historically significant". This was primarily because of the mid-century re-modeling, especially the window fronts, asbestos siding and the storage additions as happens with many old buildings. However some of the interior features remain. At some point the business became known as the Home Center. Since then descendants have remained owners of the property. The furniture business had evolved into the business now known as Stanwood Camano Home Center. The store has closed as of 2020. It is the grandchildren of Dick and Gertrude Pusey who recognized the building's historic value and donated the property to the SCAAC.

In terms of Stanwood history, though this building has been remodeled and doesn't have the old fashioned large storefront wood windows, it still symbolizes the community's the era of establishment and the dependence on the river and water transportation of the early 20th century. For Stanwood, it IS a sentimental old structure that will take on a whole new life in the next couple years.

Sources:

Marriage Certificate Np. 23409, Skagit County Auditor, Marriage Records, 1884-2000, Washington State Archives, Digital Archives, <http://digitalarchives.wa.gov>, Samuel Richardson (Dick) Pusey Obituary *Stanwood Camano News* August 1981
Gertrude G Pusey Obituary *Stanwood Camano News*, December 1984
"United States Census, 1920," "United States Census, 1930,"
Advertising for Rafter's Hardware, *Stanwood News*, 1937

"Rafter Hdw. Sold, Pusey New Owner" *Twin City News* March 25, 1937

"Stanwood Hardware and Furniture Company to Entertain Saturday" *Twin City News* April 1, 1937.

"Stanwood Hardware & Furniture Company Celebrating Golden Jubilee of the Business In a completely Modernized Store Building" *Twin City News*, July 16, 1953

Duff, Marion Meet Stanwood's Business People 51st in a series [S.R. (Dick) and Gertrude Pusey] *Stanwood News* Feb, 1970

Essex, Alice *Stanwood Story* v. 2 p. 94 1975[early hardware buildings on waterfront photograph]

Davis, Quentin Robert .Unpublished remembrances, undated. [8 pages typewritten]

New Signage—see next page!



At Long Last New Signs!

Thanks to **Janet, Cliff and Keith Larson and John Smistad**, the SAHS buildings have new signage to help guide people around our historic and not so historic buildings during our new Wednesday and Saturday hours.

The **Dave Eldridge Center**, originally known as the Stanwood Camano History Museum is now dedicated to **Dave Eldridge** who served for over 40 years as President, Treasurer and manager of the amazing growth of the organization for these past years.

Please join us to honor him **Sept 18th at the Floyd during the Historic Sites Tour 2021.**



Stanwood Area Historical Society Hires a Director !

Great News ! We have hired **Fred Poyner IV** as our first Executive Director. He will be our contact person for all questions but primarily managing our fundraising, including FNCC rentals and its programs and events. We are not sure what else he will have time to take on since he is starting out half time two—three days a week. Everyone will have a chance to meet him during this year's **Historic Sites Tour Sept 17 and 18.**

Fred is a local historian, author, and museum professional with over 27 years of experience in managing collections, exhibitions and programs, as well as researching and writing about the art and history of the Pacific Northwest. He is originally from Camano Island and graduated from Stanwood High School in 1988. He went on to receive his Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History from Western Washington University, and a Master of Arts degree in Museology and Art from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Fred currently lives in Issaquah, Washington with his family.

His books include *The First Sculptor of Seattle: The Life and Art of James A. Wehn* (2014) which was funded through the 4Culture.org Heritage Projects grant award in 2014, and received the Association of King County Historical Organization's (AKCHO) Virginia Marie Folkins Award for Outstanding Historical Publication in 2015. He is the author of two other published books about the history of sculpture in the Pacific Northwest: *Seattle*

Public Sculptors: Twelve Makers of Monuments, Memorials and Statuary, 1909–1962; and the 2021 released *Portland Public Sculptors: Monuments, Memorials and Statuary, 1900–2003.* His next book about the history of Aleutian Spray Fisheries in Seattle will be completed in 2022. He is a regular contributing writer to the Filson Company, with contributions to many other organizations and their publications, including: HistoryLink.org, the Washington State Historical Society, National Nordic Museum, Museum of the Mountain Man, Puget Sound Maritime, and Society of American Archivists.

His position is made possible with a capacity building grant from the Stanwood Camano Area Foundation from the Floyd & Delores Jones Endowed Fund.

Thank you SCAF!

Welcome Fred!



Fred Poyner
director@sahs-fncc.org

Jack Gunter's Historic Sites Map of Camano Island -



While you are wandering our buildings one of our outdoor features includes Jack Gunter's magnetic map of Camano Island.

The map was created as an "Earth Day" project for school children in the late 1990s or early 2000s. It originally had magnets of trees and whales as a way of illustrating the effort to put more trees on Camano and return whales to the Sound.

The shape of the map is cut out of sheet metal by M & M Industries (Mike Moffett)

of Stanwood. Painted on the metal sheet is the map mural with Jack's familiar detailed style which creates a bright dynamic three dimensional effect. Helping Jack with some of the painting was Susan Cohen Thompson, local well-known artist who agreed to help him to create this. Also contributing to this project Eagle Scout Caden LaTorre who built a cabinet, with help from his coach, Jake, to enclose a sort of shadow box for protection. We have placed magnets from our Historic Sites Tour to show locations of historic sites on Camano Island. We also found a few of the original magnetic whales under the island on the original art with different sayings like "Ick - Chemicals make me sick."

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## Join us for the 2021 Stanwood Camano Historic Sites Tour Sept 17 & 18th

Watch for Details  
[Historicsitestour.com](http://Historicsitestour.com)

MEMBER VINTAGE SALE of vintage antiques  
from the 1800s to 1970

SAHS Members are invited to bring in personal vintage items to be sold in the sale to benefit the Stanwood Area Historical Society. Please do NOT bring contemporary garage sale items. (Note: sale will **not** be items from SAHS collection.)

Note New Hours!  
Tours also by Appointment

 **Research  
Wednesdays**  
at the Stanwood Area Historical Society Eldridge Center  
OPEN 1:00 to 4:00 PM EVERY WEDNESDAY

**Contact Fred  
Poyner**

 **Open House  
Saturdays**  
at the Stanwood Area Historical Society Tolin House  
OPEN 1:00 to 4:00 PM EVERY SATURDAY

[director@sahs-fncc.org](mailto:director@sahs-fncc.org)

## Activities, Volunteer Opportunities and Highlights

We thank donors, members and the community for all the hours put in on the management of our buildings and events.

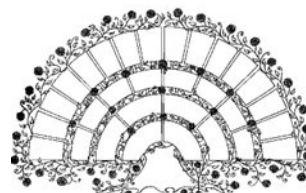
We were able to remove a very distressed house from north of the FNCC making room for expansion some day thanks to Les, Diane and Austin Anderson (ARA Construction). Asbestos was also removed thanks to a generous anonymous donor.

Bill Keller, Richard Hanks and Jim Joyce served as building supervisors for all the repairs and improvements of the grounds not to mention the Veterans Memorial.

One of most popular types of questions on our Research Wednesdays and tours are local house, farm and barn histories. We would like to thank photographer Doug Vorwaller for volunteering to help document our historic houses and business buildings. Many of our older buildings still retain their original character even after remodeling and some we just want to document because they embody so much local history.

We are now open to help with history and genealogy questions thanks to Bill Blandin, Richard and Robin Hanks and hope that COVID 19 will not shut us down again. Please wear a mask while touring our buildings.

Experience, share and learn with all of us.  
**Contact our new Director, Fred Poyner, at**  
[director@sahs-fncc.org](mailto:director@sahs-fncc.org) for tour information and  
FNCC rental opportunities.



**Camwood Genealogy  
Workshop** resumes with  
social distancing, first  
Mondays of the month.  
Contact [info@sahs-fncc.org](mailto:info@sahs-fncc.org)

**Stanwood Area ECHOES is published quarterly by the Stanwood Area Historical Society**

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Editorial Committee: Karen Prasse & Members of the Board

SAHS is a private, non profit organization (501c3).. 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.

**director@sahs-fncc.org.**

**Stanwood Area Historical Society  
2021 Elected Officers & Trustees**

|                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 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 Trustee Emeritus | Pat Bronson     |
| Facilities Custodian ~    | Jaime King      |

**Contact Us!**

You can learn more about activities and events planned for the future (COVID-19 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/sahsfnc/>
- <https://www.stanwoodveteransmemorial.com/>

**Donors, Sponsors and Supporters for  
SAHS 2021 Projects & Programs**

**April 1—July 15, 2021**

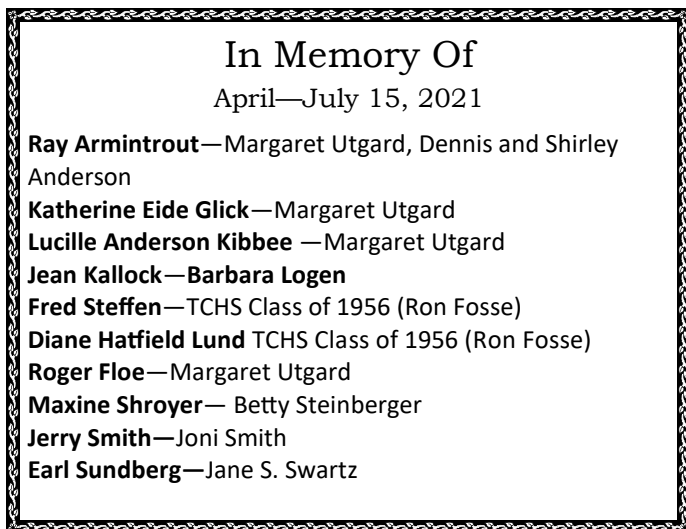
Hi & Pat Bronson  
Jerry & Angie Homola  
Karla Colando  
Elizabeth Landry  
Ron Fosse  
Cliff and Janet Larson  
John and Jana Smistad  
Philip and Candace Trautman

Caroline Barnum DiLorenzo—in Memory of Robert D. Barnum

Kirby Gilbert In Honor of Norwegian Americans

FNCC Painting & Restoration

The Questors Clara Jane Stanwood #1511 Chapter (Delores Jobe )  
Chuck and Donna Cole Foundation  
Shane Jones



Thank you to Veterans Memorial Brick donors!  
**Cory & Alyssa Keimig, Pauline Tingey, Julie Schultz, Deb Richardson, Mary E. Summers, Dennis & Shirley Anderson.**

## 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 and volunteer today!

Memberships are due annually. Renewal reminders will be sent out on the anniversary of your last membership payment. 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.

### 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.*

Individual Membership: \$20.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

General Supporting Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Family Membership: \$30.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Student Membership: \$5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Stanwood, WA 98292

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STANWOOD, WA 98292

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STANWOOD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY