

Stanwood Area ECHOES

Newsletter of the Stanwood Area Historical Society

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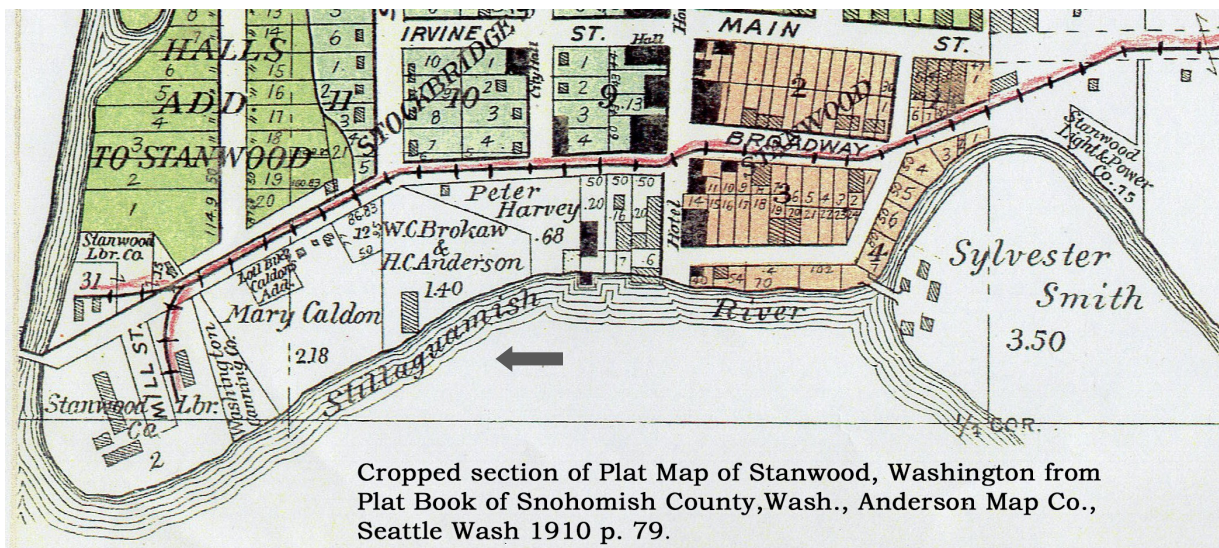


Issue No. 74; Spring, 2022

Granary Warehouse along the Stillaguamish River



The above photograph shows farmers wagons loaded with grain sacks presumably to be stored or shipped out from the wharf and warehouse along the Stillaguamish River. The warehouse was active for about twenty years until the Stanwood Grain Company was formed about 1914 in East Stanwood near the railroad tracks. The map below shows the location along the river on the Brokaw/Anderson property. 88.06.129.02



Cropped section of Plat Map of Stanwood, Washington from Plat Book of Snohomish County, Wash., Anderson Map Co., Seattle Wash 1910 p. 79.

Historic Buildings with Many Lives

The “Granary” - once known as the People’s Union Store

Among the most historic buildings in Stanwood is the ‘Granary’ building located in what was once known as East Stanwood. It is one of the buildings featured in our annual Historic Sites Tour (see next page).

After 1891, taking advantage of the new depot connection, “East Stanwood” became a commercial center for valley farmers rather than going to the waterfront area. Established by farmers in the Stillaguamish Valley, the Peoples’ Union built its store in 1902 which is now called the “Granary”.

There had been a predecessor organization called the Scandinavian Trading Union incorporated in 1889 whose general purpose was to be a mercantile business in Stanwood. It is not known if they had their own building.

The Peoples’ Union Company formally incorporated April 13, 1903 with original Trustees Christian Joergenson, Andrew Anderson, Nils Bruseth, A. L. Willhite and O A. Prestrud. Many of the same farmers had established the Stanwood Cooperative Creamery in 1895. According to Gustav Joergenson writing later, branch stores were opened in Silvana in 1906 and in 1908 in Conway.

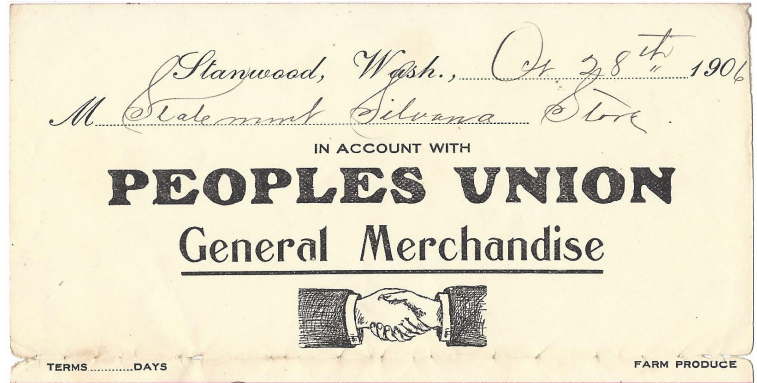
At Stanwood’s People’s Union the capital stock invested was three thousand, two hundred and seventy dollars and by 1906 it increased to \$30,000. During 1904 the hall and warehouse was built on the west side of the main store and a meat market was included. When the business first opened, *“much of the activities of business and community life around here was...centered at that place...of interest can be mentioned the many meetings held in or at the People’s Union...where almost everything that concerned neighbors or the neighborhood was discussed...it was a good place for socials, ladies aids, concerts and music and singing programs....The idea of Union stockholders was that the farmers operate everything themselves in the little town; it however never justified their financial ideas as a profit sharing organizations.”* It is interesting to note that there apparently was a Washington Co-operative Union that gathered similar collectives engaged in various business around the State in a third annual convention in 1911 that included representatives from Stanwood.

The succession of managers included the familiar family names of E. G. Reep, C. J. Gunderson, P T. Lee, John Ramstad and Theodore Wold, Mannie Haglund , E. A. Newman and finally Miss Ellen Yngve from 1921 to 1923. She and James J. Hansen then purchased the merchandise and formed a partnership. “The partnership rented the building until 1930 when they purchased the building too and became the sole owners of the entire interest of the People’s Union Cooperative.”

According to the statement dated June 11, 1934, after five years of the Great Depression, \$8,428.08 was the balance to be divided among stockholders. There were over 200 stockholders that were listed to whom shares were paid over the next few years as the Yngve and Hansen company paid off their contract. Nine hundred and seventy seven (977) shares @ \$8.62 per share left \$6.24 after shares were paid. Finally, in 1938 they moved next door to the bricked Yngve and Hansen Grocery store. (See Echoes #70).

It is unclear who the operators were until 1942 when Otto Gilbertson opened Gilbertson Hardware in the People’s Union building. In 1947 there are advertisements for the dance classes in the second floor “studio over Gilbertson Hardware” indicating the variety of occupants over the years.

(Continued on page 3)



People’s Union, later “Granary”

93.113.01 circa early 1930s

Gilbertson sold in 1964 to Harold A. Moe. Moe continued to operate it under the Gilbertson name but he in turn sold “in the early 70s”. His partner Bob Anderson and Ed Shimmel took the store over in 1973.

In 1980 Tom & Joey Coughlin purchased the Gilbertson Hardware and had a shop that sold collectibles, housewares and gift items in an antique shop called “Gossamer Wings”. The Eagles Nest, Vera Cruz & Jasmin plus numerous other shops and businesses occupied these other sections of the building for a few years.

Soon after in the early 1980s Stanwood general contractor Frank Miller remodeled the former Peoples Union/Gilbertson Hardware building and re-named it the “Granary”. The People’s Union and Gilbertson’s probably did “retail” grain but it was never known as a granary until this time. According to County records in 2002 it was sold again three more times and it is now operating as the “Granary LLC”.



Sources:

- “People’s Union Store is Pioneer Establishment of East Stanwood” Achievement Number *Stanwood Tidings*, June, 1916
- “P.U. Bldg Sold Yngve-Hansen—Thriving firm buys Historic Business Property” *Twin City News* April 10, 1930
- Joergenson, Gustav “*History of the Twin Cities*” Installment LX, July, 21, 1949.
- “An Entire Success – Dedication of the Peoples Union Hall Saturday Night” *Stanwood Tidings*, October 7, 1904
- “Meet Stanwood’s Business People, 33rd in series Oct. 1969 *Stanwood News* [Bob Anderson and Harold Moe]
- “Old established Business Carries On” *East Stanwood Sun* May 6, 1938
- “Cooperative Store” *Spokesman Review* 1901
- Articles of Incorporation of the Scandinavian Trading Union, 1889 (SAHS 92.43.90)



Open House Saturdays
at the Stanwood Area Historical Society *Tolin House*
OPEN 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM EVERY SATURDAY



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



For more information on the Granary / former People’s Union mentioned in earlier article, see <https://youraudiotour.com/tours/775/>. and for more histories join us for

www.historicsitestour.org

CARS AND QUILTS AUGUST 26 & 27

Join us for a fun, self-guided tour of historic site in Stanwood and on Camano Island.

New this year is the “In person tour”, antique cars and quilts will be at multiple locations to help tell the stories.

Thanks to Humanities Washington for an Opportunity Grant to support this event Along with **Camano Island Chamber of Commerce, SAAL Brewing Coastal Community Bank** and many donations dropped off in our previous tours! The Stanwood Area Historical Society is planning a program featuring Richard Hanks “*The Men Who Built The Floyd: Stanwood's Historic Public Hall*”. All the buildings will be open 12 noon -4 pm Friday, August 26th, 10 am - 4 pm on Saturday, August 27th.

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More Historic Buildings with Many Lives

Telephone Timeline 1905—1981 - Stanwood Area and Camano Island

If we think cell phone companies are confusing, here is a sampling of historical news references to telephone services until 1981.

1908 – Jan 24 (Stanwood Tidings) “Ideal Telephone line is now completed”

1909 – The “Independent Telephone Company started construction of a new central office on Main Street next door to Stanwood Tidings building. [*Stanwood Story* v. 1 p. 56]

1916 – The Farmers Telephone Company was established with 90 subscribers on the Cedarhome and Florence, Stillaguamish Peoples and the north of town line. Competitor “Puget Sound Telephone” had submitted a “half-baked” proposition that farmers didn’t approve of (*Stanwood Tidings* Sept 30, 1916.)

The – “People’s Telephone Company” was established during 1916, and with Mr. Peter Henning as president and Mr. Edward Egge as the Secretary. A new central building was now built in Stanwood about 1917. (*Stanwood Tidings*, Sept 20, 1916)

1925 – A minute book of the Stillaguamish Telephone Company mentions consolidating with the “Peoples Telephone Co.” though in 1927 minutes indicate they were still electing officers though the minutes end after that.

1929 – Twelve farms and residents along the East Stanwood-Bryant road near Sunday Lake have made an application for Farmers telephone service and construction of lines has started. That year there was a Florence District with three lines (number 16, 15, and 10). (*Stanwood News*, Feb 10)

1948 – Photos of West Coast telephone operators. Office was located across the 270th in Stanwood. [2009 SAHS Calendar]

1951 – Report of stockholder’s meeting of People’s Telephone – new lines were announced to Brandstroms Corner, Cedarhome, Heichel’s Corner, Ryggs Packing and Juniper Beach. (TCN Feb 8)

1956 – Sale of Peoples Telephone to (be absorbed by) West Coast for \$18,000. (June 28 *Twin City News* & Mar 1956)

1960 – West Coast Telephone employees strike. Work stoppage went into effect shortly after noon (*Stanwood News*, Dec 22)

1961 – Camano switching to dial system...Ground breaking for WC Telephone building....Stanwood is the company’s only remaining manual telephone exchange in northwestern Washington. (*Stanwood News*, Feb 2)

1961 – In August 1961 Switchboard service was officially no longer needed (Sunday, Aug 20, 1961) and in 1964 West Coast merged with GTE to be GTE Northwest.



Former “People’s Telephone” building on 99th Ave NW

This odd little brick building in west Stanwood is noted not for its grand architecture but for its utilitarian history. We are not sure what it is used for at the moment but it once was converted to a residence after its use as the People’s Telephone building. Telephone operators were Grace Gagnon Floe and Grace Hancock Carlson.

Former People’s Telephone Patrons Get New Numbers

The West Coast Telephone company is making headway in converting the People’s patrons into the West Coast system and many numbers have been changed by the conversion. For instance we were thinking how strange it must be to the Melvin Olsen family, who, for 45 years, had the telephone number “24F5,” in the People’s system. Now it is 9-3803. So if they should call in the old number we suggest the Hello Girls be patient.

Twin City News Aug. 9th, 1956

(Continued on page 5)

Stanwood Area Historical Society 2021 Elected Officers & Trustees

President ~	Karen Prasse	2021-2022
Vice President ~	Kathy Uroff	2021-2022
Treasurer ~	Steve Youngren	2022-2023
Secretary ~	Joan Andrews	2022-2023
Past President		2021-2022

Trustees

2022-24	Janet Utgard	
2022-24	John Leque	
2021-23	Clifford Larson	
2021-23	open	
2020-22	John Smistad	
2020-22	Rose King	
Honorary Lifetime Trustees	Pat Bronson & Margaret Utgard	

STAFF

Bookkeeper	Carl Libbey
Facilities Custodian	Angel Robledo
Guest Services Staff - We welcome new hosts to greet and guide our Floyd Hall renters while making use of our wonderful event hall. See next column —	

Next SAHS Board Meetings ~ 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Floyd Norgaard Cultural Center 11 a.m. Open to the public! New members and volunteers welcome.

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

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Stanwood, WA 98292
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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 business sponsorship.

info@sahs-fncc.org

Help Wanted \$\$\$ –

Guest Services Staff

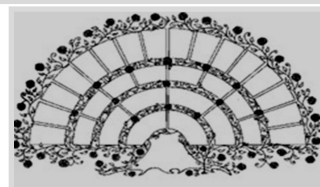
Floyd Norgaard Cultural Center

The “Floyd” (as it is affectionately known) is a great place for weddings, concerts, arts and music, business events, luncheons, parties, ceremonies and more. Operated by the Historical Society.

We are looking for individuals to be part of a team to be on site during the rentals to greet and assist with building accommodations. We pay \$17.00 per hour to and hours include both weekend, weekday and occasional evening shifts as needed. Training will be provided to those who have customer service experience and a flexible schedule, usually one booking - 2 per week. First Aid or CPR training and/or certification and food handler's permit is a plus.

Camwood Genealogy Workshop

meets on the first
Mondays of the month
in the Eldridge Center. info@sahs-fncc.org



Donate to
Stanwood Area Historical Society
We collect and preserve the wondrous treasures of history that define our community.

\$10.00 USD \$20.00 USD \$50.00 USD Other Amount

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Paypal link is on our website sidebar
www.sahs-fncc.org

1972 – Party lines on Camano Island customers using the 387 exchange were reduced from 10 to 5 per line. (SN, July 5, 1976)

1980 – (Stanwood News ,Jan 9) – Addition to General Telephone building on 271 St began in Nov 1979.

1981 – (Seattle Times, Aug 20) “No – “Number, Please? - Friendly operators replaced by direct dial”. There were 1300 subscribers in Stanwood-East Stanwood and Camano Island area. Camano changed to the modern system the previous year; the new system...offered direct distance dialing and microwave radio transmission for long distance calls.

We were not able to determine the various dates party lines were finally discontinued, thought to be at different times for different phone companies in the mid 1980s. Please write if you have more info!!!! We are quite sure there are many omissions.

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(see also the Richard Hanks article— “Telephones in Stanwood in the 1890s” Stanwood Area Echoes Issue no. 68, Fall, 2020.

## To our Members & Supporters ~

We continue the year after a successful 50th Anniversary Fundraiser held in May. We can't thank those who contributed enough! We also wish to thank **Fred Poyner IV** for all of work on this effort! He resigned recently and we wish to say he accomplished much for us in the last 10 months.

Our summer and fall are going to be busy this year. Our vision and mission to be a place where history is preserved and interpreted includes an unusual collection of historic buildings and the Veterans Memorial that embody our history on many levels. But that is what makes us unique! We don't have a conventional entrance lobby where visitors arrive and wander. Our buildings both are part of and contain Stanwood and Camano Island history.

Like many small museums overcrowded storage has become a barrier to efficiently developing new displays. But there are many interesting and innovative ways to solve this puzzle. Meanwhile, to accomplish this we seek short term volunteers to serve on committees to help us explore these options and, of course, to raise funds.

We wish to thank the Tulalip Tribes and the Stillaguamish Tribe for funds for recent repairs on the Floyd Norgaard Cultural Center and the D. O. Pearson House roof and kitchen ceiling!

Again thanks to Boy Scouts Troup 86 and Future Farmers of America of Stanwood High School.

Meanwhile, our Camwood Genealogy Workshop is an example of how our buildings are used to provide research assistance and collaboration on projects and programs. We have purchased online digital software so that parts of our collection will eventually be listed on the Internet. Our collaboration with the Stanwood Camano Arts Advisory Commission on an art exhibit and souvenir cards project continues and a full schedule of monthly history programs is soon to be announced.

Please visit and find out how you can help! Even after we are fully staffed we always will need volunteers. The Stanwood Area Historical Society is a vital resource to and for the community. Please call and talk to us about how you can volunteer and share your expertise!

Gratefully, Karen Prasse, 2022 SAHS President

## Donations In Memory Of

March 15, 2022—May 31, 2022

**Eldbjorg (Moe) Ekholm** Ron & Linda Fosse, Lisa M Bean

**Gerald Magelssen**—Teresa and Greg Luce, Nancy S. Egezeino, Ruth Skjeie, Estate of Gerald Magelssen, Marilyn F. Wilson, Gary Magelssen & Nancy Bendickson, Margaret Utgard, Jean & John Roden, Karen & David Pelletier

**Oran Fjarlie** ` Steve Youngren

**Glorie Eide Clemmons**—Margaret Utgard

**Ramona Fox Brodland**—Pat Lund

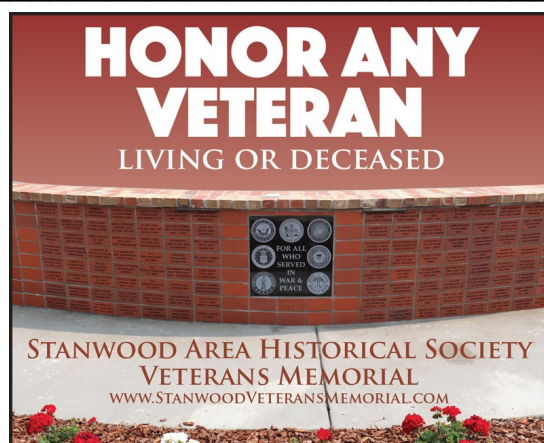
**Johnny Anderson**—Alan D. Anderson

**James K. Hartley**—Meng Chou

**Stacks Madsen**—Dennis & Shirley Anderson

**Donna Strand Shroyer**—Pat Lund, Margaret Utgard, Janet Utgard

**Mick Hanson**—Pat Lund



Thank you to most recent Veterans Memorial Brick donors!

Allan D. Anderson for **Johnny Anderson**

Meng Chou for **James K Hartley**

Rosemary Seaburg for **Charles Seaburg**

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Legacy Art Cards Project

We look forward to a new exhibit in our FNCC 2nd floor Gallery featuring a dozen artworks for the Legacy Collection Art Cards project, a great partnership with the **Stanwood-Camano Arts Advocacy Commission** for the fall. More to follow soon.

Grants Received :

Our local residents are not only generous with funds to cover operating costs but also donate artifacts, photographs, documents representing family and local business stories.

We are always seeking helpers to sort, organize and work with the items to continue to tell new stories. All the donations need management and we will be developing a new online resource that will allow researchers to access part of our collection online. The grant extends the usefulness of our collections database. With the grants SAHS received \$1,024 from the **RE/MAX Community Chest grant program** in support of a new project to offer SAHS collections online .

The project will create a new Past Perfect Online Collections Portal allowing records and images of photographs, archives, maps and artifacts and antiques in our collections.

Thanks to Ellen Bohn at RE/MAX for their support! And to Stanwood Camano Area Foundation for administering the grant program. And Fred Poyner IV for procuring the funds!

Thanks also go to the **Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians Community Contributions Program** for D. O. Pearson roof repairs. Contributions.

And to the **Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions fund** for roof repairs of the Floyd Norgaard Cultural Center and the D.O. Pearson House Kitchen ceiling.



Contact Us!

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

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

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

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

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

<https://www.stanwoodveteransmemorial.com/>



THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY FOR SUPPORTING AND SUSTAINING SAHS

March 16—May 31 2022

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Robin and Richard Hanks
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Camwood Genealogy Workshop
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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.

NAME (Please print) _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____

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Individual Membership: \$20.00 \$ _____

Student Membership: \$5.00 \$ _____

Family Membership: \$30.00 \$ _____

General Supporting Donation: \$ _____

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