

Stanwood Area ECHOES

Newsletter of the Stanwood Area Historical Society
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Issue No. 84; March, 2025



EAST STANWOOD WN ~ J. BOYD OR SON CLIFFORD ELLIS OF ARLINGTON

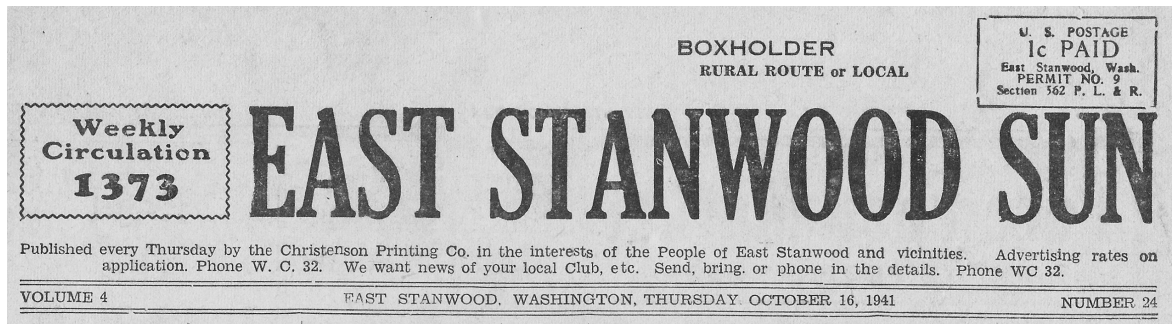
Above is a photographic postcard view of East Stanwood's main street in the late 1950s. The view looks east towards the railroad with Pictsweet Foods (now North Star Cold Storage) in the distance. From left to right is the National Bank of East Stanwood, Amundson's Men's Shop, a drug store and Floe's real estate building. Gilbertson Hardware and the Shurfine Grocery were then in what is now the Granary Building (originally the People's Union).

On right (south side) is a bakery sign, a sign for the Holman Café family (later Hanson's Cafe) and Earl Tietjens's Appliances (1938-1942). There is a sign for Twin City Paint & Wallpaper that occupied a building East of the Gunderson building. It also housed the Hansen's Radio Television Service. Tietjen's Hardware was formerly the Valley Hardware Company that began in 1938. The first four buildings on the right were demolished in 1965.

[front page caption continued] The building on the far right with a sign for Christoferson's. It was once the office of the *East Stanwood Sun*. (front page). The *East Stanwood Sun* was published from 1938 until its last issue July 30, 1942. Carl and Mabel

Gertrude (Stanwick) Christenson were the publishers and also provided printing services. He died suddenly in April 1939. She remarried H. Louis Peterson of Cedarhome in May 1941 and the publication continued until 1942. On July 30th, 1942 the *East Stanwood Sun* reported "with this issue the *East Stanwood Sun* ceases publication".

There was another East Stanwood paper, the *East Stanwood Bulletin*, which began in September 1915. Issues of an East Stanwood Bulletin exist but appear to be mostly an advertiser.



Historic Buildings with Many Lives

Historic Preservation:

Adaptive Reuse - Remodel - Renovation - Rehabilitation - Reconstruction ?

Over the years one of the major themes in our articles have been our historic buildings and homes. Building histories are part of the area history. They document the trends and changes and how the community has adapted. The Historical Society receives regular questions about house histories which we can sometimes help with and provide stories by digging through old documents, family histories and newspapers for clues. Many families, businesses and organizations have contributed to the stories but there are many that are long forgotten.

One of the buildings in town on 271st Ave was once a 1940s proudly promoted new modern store, The Western One Stop Mart. This building (see photos) in East Stanwood is now a church after several occupants giving it life again.

The Western building was built in 1946 by O. K. Bell who presumably purchase it from the Lien Family who had a large farm. The new building had a 10 inch concrete floor, "one of the first of its kind in the lowland level". Ultimately it has survived fires and floods and numerous remodels.

Bell established the Western Auto Company in it but in 1945 Charles & Hadje Wetterstrom purchased it from Bell. In 1950, though the building was owned by Charles Wetterstrom the business was sold to the Templetons. Adjacent stores in the same building included Petersons Grocery and Jim's Meat Market (cold storage). A fire in April 1954 destroyed the auto store but the grocery owned by E. W. Peterson and the meat market were not too damaged. Templeton's auto store was a total loss



though enough survived to convert the remaining structure into an automobile dealership.





Note the Western Auto Store in the distance in this photograph of a 1966 Stanwood High School Spartan Band and Cheerleaders. Does anyone remember the residence and storefront in the middle? 2021.23 Stanwood Camano News Clipping.

By January 1955, the building re-opened as a Ford dealership known as the Hays Motor Company. It was remodeled from the Western Store building into a modern streamline garage building. It featured a modern post-free showroom with two offices and had sloping plate glass windows. It was operated at first in conjunction with Backstrom Motors in Arlington

In November 1959 another flood inundated Stanwood up to 6 inches deep and it is perhaps that reason that advertisements for the Hays Motor

Company disappeared after February 1960. Mr. Hays had come to East Stanwood for a short time after living in Everett as an auto mechanic in 1948. He was from Arizona where he worked as a laborer in a copper mine as a young man. In 1950 he became an auto salesperson in Everett according to the Census. Soon after Ellis Chevrolet built a dealership just east of the building.

In 1960 John R. & Alice Hays sold to Dale & Ruth Cook. A 1966 photograph shows that the building was the Western Auto Store again and in 1971 according to local advertising and it became known as the Cook's Western Auto Building where they carried automotive supplies, lawn mowers, camping and garden supplies.

In 1973 the Nicholas family took over the Western Auto Store and changed the business into the Stanwood Coast to Coast. They outgrew the building and moved the business to a brand new building called Stanwood True Value Hardware.



In 1994 the Cook's sold the building to Shopping Center Properties of Stanwood. The building is now owned by Stanwood Foursquare Roots Church.

TWIN CITY NEWS

MILES OF SMILES
(By Johnny Hays)

"Your Dad's in a good mood this morning. He's going to stop by the Hays Motor Co. and look at that fine 1952 Ford Crestline Victoria Tudor V-8, R & H and overdrive, really clean, for only \$1,145.00"

Hays Motor Co.
P. O. Box 216 WC 91
EAST STANWOOD, WASH.

STANWOOD JANUARY 13, 1955 NUMBER 29

Opening Hays Building Current Feature Event

"Otto Eitzenberger Finds Old Pistol.

The Arlington Times, May 31, 1951. Headline : "Otto Eitzenberger Finds Old Pistol." While plowing a field on the Eitzenberger farm near Silvana Otto Eitzenberger turned up the rusted remains of a pistol of doubtful vintage. The weapon appears to be a .32 caliber. The wood has rotted from the handle, leaving the framework of the grip of solid brass, and also the receiver of brass, while the barrel, 12 inches long, is of iron. It looks like a breach loader, and bears the number 10,274. The land where the relic was found was cleared in 1916, and it formerly was a beaver swamp, thus the supposition is that the weapon might have belonged to a beaver trapper. The relic is on display in The Times window."



This pistol has disappeared and local historian Tug Buse is trying to track it down. He would appreciate a photograph of the pistol or any eyewitness description of it, if anyone saw it. Tug's research and the description given

by *The Arlington Times* article provided by Loren Kraetz suggests that the pistol was an expensive, rare, custom made gentleman's personal defense weapon probably made before the year 1790. The earliest that Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) fur trappers would have gone up the Stillaguamish River, as far as Tug's research suggests, would be the 1830s. Most HBC fur trappers, like Native Americans, carried long guns, which were more practical on the frontier than pistols. From the information Tug currently has, by the 1830s, this pistol was probably about 60 years old. So, that raises a fascinating question: how did such a weapon, that is so old, end up in a swamp just off the Stillaguamish River? -- If you have ever heard about this or remember the story, please contact Michael "Tug" Buse or call 360-629-6110 and he will call you.

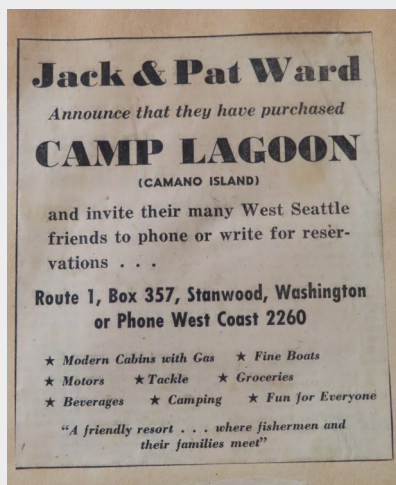
Camp Lagoon Scrapbooks

Scrapbooks are among the most interesting donations we receive. We recently received a photo album bound with wood covers carved with lettering saying *Camp Lagoon Scrapbook - Jack and Pat Ward*. The scrapbook / photo album show with this unique wooden cover is the 2nd one we have received. They are different and include many photos and printed artifacts. This one below was donated by Jack Ward, son of the scrapbook creator.

Camp Lagoon was established about 1931 by Mr. Major and built on a lagoon that was filled in with a homemade gas donkey scoop dredge according to John Osmundson, long time Camano Island resident. The resort included 16 cottages and a marine railway for moving around the boats and shoreline. In 1945 it was taken over by Chester Brown followed by Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Thorsen.

The Wards owned the resort from until about 1954 until 1957 when they sold it to William Hulme. Other owners included Dee Blackburn who operated the resort from 1959 until 1962. It had been purchased by Herald Allen Welch in 1959 who operated it until his mysterious death in 1962.

In September 1959 a severe windstorm damaged a recently completed dock with 30 - 40 feet of its shoreline sections gone leaving the end of the dock inaccessible. However the next Saturday's Camano Island Sportsmens Derby went on as scheduled.



SAHS Lecture Series featuring Author and Music Historian
Peter Blecha.

Stomp and Shout: The Untold Story of Northwest Rock & Roll

At the Floyd

Sunday May 4th, 4 pm. ~

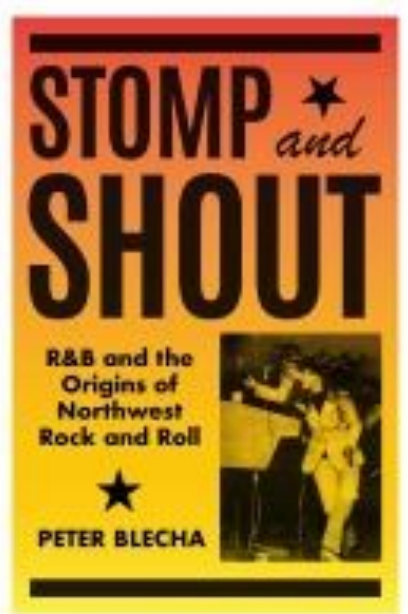
*Co-Sponsored by Sno-Isle Libraries and with thanks for providing the
Speakers Bureau - Humanities Washington*

May 30th ~ Memorial Day Observance

Friday July 4th ~ Parade and Ice Cream Social

Sept 6th ~ Historic Home Tour

November 11th ~ Veterans Day Observance



SNO-ISLE
LIBRARIES

Snow Goose Festival

Another successful **Snow Goose Festival** for February 22. Special Thanks to **Robin and Richard Hanks** for planning and managing it this year. Pulling the program together was much appreciated by the 390+ visitors attending the bird programs, bus tours and environmental group informational displays. Thanks also for support from the City of Stanwood, the Committee: Melanie Serroels, Scott & Kathleen Chase, Gaylen Hancock, Tom Hiegler, Tom Eisenberg, Jeff O., Emily Fekkes. The met monthly to plan this event and will continue for 2026. This list does not include all of the artists, organizations, tour guides, and speakers some of whom are still listed on the webpage. https://www.sahs-fncc.org/?page_id=4270



STANWOOD CAMANO
**SNOW GOOSE &
BIRDING FESTIVAL**

Thank You All!!!

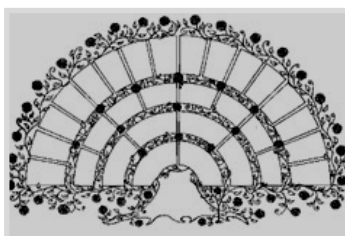


PayPal line is on our website sidebar
www.sahs-fncc.org

Camwood Genealogy Workshop

CGW meets on the first Mondays of the
month in the Eldridge Center at 1 p.m.
Contact Bill Blandin

https://www.sahs-fncc.org/?page_id=56



Stanwood and Camano Island have Many Stories & Histories !

New Volunteers are always welcome to help keep our exhibits open to the public to share these stories. Please let us know if you have an interest in giving a few tours once a month or so! Meet new people traveling through or just never stopped in!

We don't have a conventional reception desk so our buildings need to be monitored while you visit. But we do give tours when visitors arrive. You have as much time as you need to wander through quietly or docents are available to ask questions or to tell stories and histories.

Please check for us in the Eldridge Center or Tolin House during our open hours.

~~~ D O Pearson House 27108 102nd Ave NW – Historic House Museum

~~~ Eldridge Center (behind Pearson House) which has photographic exhibits and a research area. Find someone for tours here!

~~~ Tolin House - Business Office for rental information  
27112 102nd Ave NW.

~~~ Floyd Norgaard Cultural Center - Includes **3rd floor exhibits** and the first floor main hall for events.

Exhibits are open Wednesdays and Saturdays 1—4 pm or by appointment!
360-629-6110 - Check in at the Eldridge Center or Tolin House.

Many thanks again to all the members who help with our recent **Snow Goose and String Band** events:
Joan Andrews and Jack Freberg, Diane Anderson, Celia and Marvin Fones, John Leque, Janet Utgard, John Smistad and other members of the facilities committee: Dave Eldridge, Les Anderson, Cliff Danielson and Karen Pelletier. Andreena Bergnam, Kathy Uroff.

Rose King, Kris and Rick Anderson, Steve Youngren.

Thanks also to Collections Committee : Diane Anderson, Pat Bronson and Joan McConnell.

Thanks to Marvin Fones who has been helping with small repair projects.

December 2024~February 2025

Donations In Memory Of

Grace Birkestol - Steve Youngren

Ray Cresap - Mary Margaret Haugen,
Judy Fjarlie

Rosemary Von Moos Edwards -
Ed & Ramona Snowden

Judy Lervick - Ed & Ramona Snowden

June Murphy - Jack Freberg,
Ed & Ramona Snowden,

Donations

December 2024 - March 15, 2025

Rebecca Stedman

Chris Rezendes

Margaret Buse

Ken Christoferson

Vicki Rensink

Jack Ward

Ron & Linda Fosse

Thanks to new (& renewed) 2025 Members

New members welcome!

Diane & Les Anderson

Joan Andrews & Jack Freberg

Kris and Rick Anderson

Chaim & Yonnah BenLevy Bezalel

Hi & Pat Bronson

Kathleen Duclos

Jeffrey & Suzanne Dutton

Dave and Bobbie Eldridge

Celia & Marvin Fones

Ron & Linda Fosse

Pam Fugier

Dianne and Dave George

Dan & Linda Haskins

Karen Prasse & Jack Archibald

Kenneth J. Raedeke & Gail Olson

Vicki Lee Rensink

Chris Resendes

Connie Ronning

Dan Royal

Ramona and Ed Snowden

Rebecca Stedman

Phil and Candace Trautman

Jerry & Rosalee Whitney

Ronald & Barbara Wilderman,

Janet Utgard & Scott Shroyer

Kathy Uroff,

Steve Youngren

This is not a complete membership list so if you donated after December 1st, and are not on the appropriate listing, please contact us.



Rent The Floyd

STANWOOD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



perfect for your next:

Wedding Reception Party

Birthday Memorial Gathering

360-629-6110

fncmanager@sahs-fncc.org

thefloydnorgaard.org

www.sahs-fncc.org



The Floyd is also available for business and organization meetings and events.

Talk to Judy Fernandes about possibilities.

360-629-6110

Stanwood Area Historical Society 2024 Elected Officers & Trustees

| | | |
|------------------|--------------|-----------|
| President ~ | Joan Andrews | 2025-2026 |
| Vice President ~ | Kathy Uroff | 2024-2025 |
| Treasurer ~ | Celia Flones | 2024-2025 |
| Secretary ~ | Rose King | 2025-2026 |

Trustees

| | |
|----------|------------------|
| 2023 -25 | Karen Pelletier |
| 2023 -25 | Andreena Bergman |
| 2024 -26 | Kris Anderson |
| 2024 -26 | Les Anderson |
| 2025 -27 | Cliff Larson |
| 2025 -27 | John Smistad |
| 2025 -27 | Steve Youngren |
| 2025 -27 | Janet Utgard |
| 2025 -27 | John Leque |

Honorary Lifetime Trustees
Pat Bronson & Margaret Utgard

New Board Meeting Hours:

SAHS Board Meetings ~

3rd Thursday of the month, 11 a.m.

New members and volunteers welcome.

Officers serve for two year terms.

Trustee terms are 3 years

President and Secretary rotate on the even year.

Vice President and Treasurer rotate on the odd year.

New Exhibits are Being Planned ! -

We welcome new helpers with display ideas and set ups, working with artifacts and photographs!

Call 360-629-6110

https://www.sahs-fncc.org/?page_id=13

Contact Us!

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

info@sahs-fncc.org

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

<https://thefloydnorgaard.org>

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

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

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



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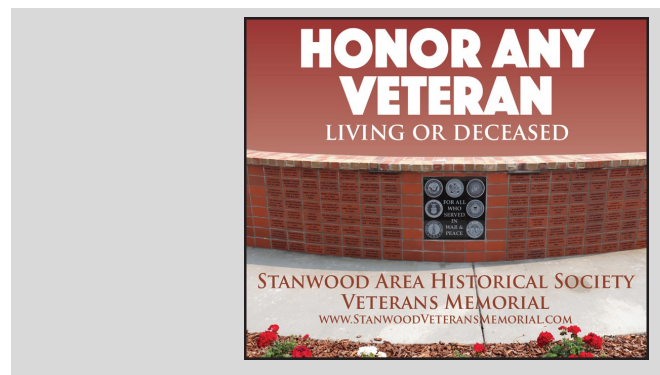
27122 102nd Ave. N. W. (no mail)

Stanwood, WA 98292

360-629-6110 ~ <http://www.sahs-fncc.org>

Editorial Committee: Karen Prasse & Members of the Board

SAHS is a private, non profit organization (501c3). Please help support this publication and other projects and programs with your membership dues, or business sponsorship. Contact us: info@sahs-fncc.org



Join the Stanwood Area Historical Society

Memberships are due annually. This is a significant means of support for the Society and includes a subscription to the newsletter.

Volunteer members help govern our society by providing assistance with programming, publications and planning for the future and in many other ways. Mail to: SAHS P. O. Box 69, Stanwood WA 98292

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,, preservation projects, collections care, exhibits and programs.

NAME (Please print) _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP _____ PHONE _____ Renewal / New (please circle one)

Email (Program/Activities notifications) _____

Membership: \$50.00 \$ _____

General Supporting Donation: \$ _____

Total \$ _____

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