

# Stanwood Area ECHOES

Newsletter of the Stanwood Area Historical Society  
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Issue No. 87; December, 2025

## Stanwood West End Historic Brick Streets, 1939



2025.106.34

**The 1939 (7th Annual ) Harvest Jubilee** was the Friday and Saturday August 18th. The Stanwood Steam Laundry truck in this photo (front) won 2nd place in the Commercial Float contest. There were two parades and dancing both nights. Carnival attractions included a log bucking contest, competitive marching and drill and a baseball game in the new high school diamond.

*(Continued on page 2)*

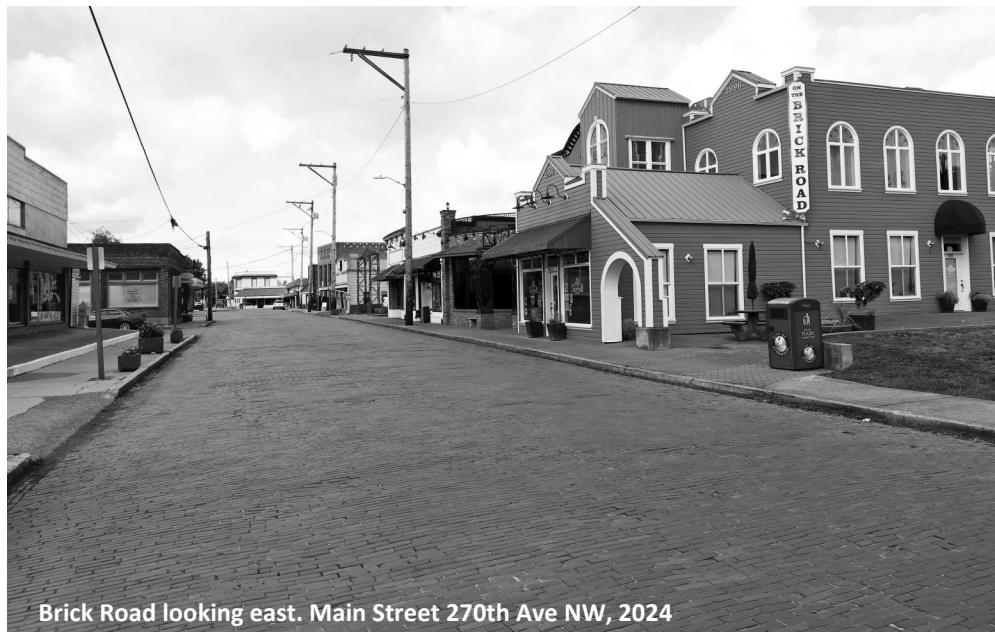


Contests included a greased pole climb, Old Wood Face (Impersonation contest?), foot races, flower show, pie eating, egg throwing and other kiddie games. Five bands were featured.

In the front photo on the right behind the laundry truck is the S. A. Thompson Store (right) originally the Irvine Store. It was still operated by the family at the time of this photograph. In 1935 Thompson and family had remodeled it. He died in 1937 and his daughter, Jessie C. Thorpe operated it with many loyal employees until 1946. It was then operated by J.L. Goss until 1954 when it was purchased by Theresa and Les Hagstrom as the Thriftway (United Grocers—Cash & Carry) It changed hands again in 1959 with Ralph & Arlene Godden as owners. In 1964 a new section was called the Hitching Post with more remodels, renamed again in 1965 as the "Serve-U". In May of 1978 the store caught fire and brought the fire department once again to burned and was not salvageable.

On the left is the Stanwood Hardware & Furniture building purchased in 1937 by Samuel (Dick) Pusey which is still owned by family members. Plans for building include a new art center on the property as soon as funding is in place.

The brick streets are visible in the photograph though they appear widened since 1937 (cover). The City of Stanwood has been studying how to continue to incorporate preservation of the character the bricks into the new designs. They have



Brick Road looking east. Main Street 270th Ave NW, 2024

received feedback indicating local business owners and other community members wish to preserve the historic character of the West end of Stanwood. There are many other historic buildings everywhere in the city in need of rehabilitation and improvements. We appreciate the example the City is setting in preserving our aging but useful buildings and roadways throughout out town.

The brick streets provide unique character to the town growing very fast. To learn more about the progress of the project, see the article in the *Stanwood Camano News* "City staff, council evaluate plans for Stanwood's historic Brick Road" by Libby Williams Nov 17, 2025.

## New Additions to our Collections!

Thanks to Roseanne Michaels and husband Michael McCormick for driving her family's Grandfathers Clock all the way from California. It is now a new addition to the D. O. Pearson House Museum. It was owned by Karl Schmidt whose decorated laundry van was in the photograph on the front page.

Karl and his wife Maria came to Stanwood by way of Valdez about 1930 and operated the Stanwood Laundry near the waterfront from the 1930s to 1944. In their early years, the Schmidts made several trips to Germany to see the family. In 1938 they made their last trip but were told they had to leave and return to America because the war was coming. They were unable to see their family again.

Other donations include more womens hats owned by her mother Ruth Locks Bendixen from Jana Aufai; Margaret Utgard donated a dresser and mirror plus many other documents and small treasures to be featured some day.

Thanks also to the Stillaguamish Valley Museum and Michelle Heiderer and Roy Harris for donating Mark Kimball's jewelry store ledgers found in their collection. Kimball operated a jewelry and watch store in both sides of town, including the brick road. He was married to Genevieve Pearson in 1926, a granddaughter of D. O. Pearson, the first mayor of Stanwood.

We also appreciate the SVM for temporarily storing our sleigh until we can provide a permanent space (see page 6).



2025.123

## Transition to the Horseless Carriage - not quite complete.

This photograph features Florence Transfer Co., Stage Depot with horse driven with hand crank and two seats and a foldable hood. We are not sure if this is meant to be humorous or the horse is hauling it somewhere for repairs.

Andrew Larson (1862-1935) is the passenger in the car. He was in the livery business about 1909 according to the Polk Directory. He also served as constable in Stanwood.

He and his wife Ida were married in 1886 and came to Florence soon after. The barn was painted red and still standing in Florence until 2005 at least. He also operated a stage between Florence and the depot near Stanwood providing a connection to the depot because the steamboats could not always provide convenient connections at the time.



## Doctor Allen's Buggy

This beautiful buggy's restoration was recently completed by local resident Larry Hanson at the request of Annabelle and Grace Birkestol. They sold it to Larry Hanson in 1998 and he restored it. Larry and Annabelle rode in it in the 1999 and 2000 4th of July Parade.

Dr. Allen was the first doctor in Stanwood who arrived in 1898, established a hospital with Dr. MacEacheran.

Dr. Allen sold his practice and hospital moved to Lake Stevens in 1914. It was purchased by Ole Birkestol who left it to his daughters Annabelle and Grace. It is now stored offsite until we can display it and tell its story. Thank you Larry!





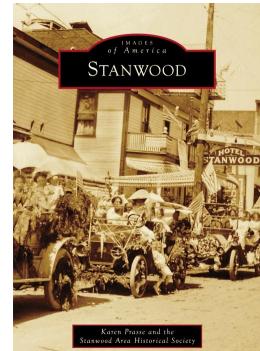
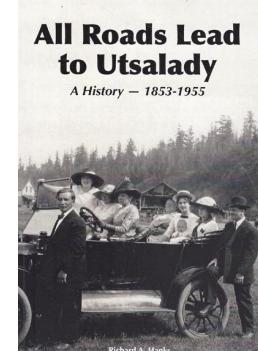
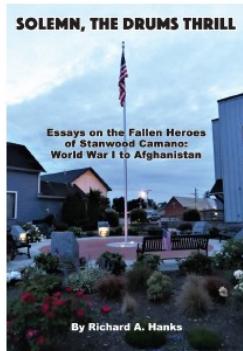
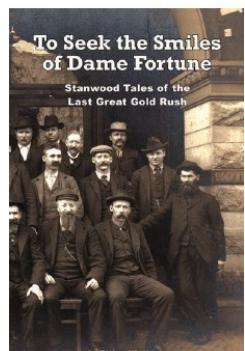
**"Disastrous Fire takes Eilertsen Lumber Co & Twin City Grain" October 1954** *Twin City News* - In the distance is the smoke and the remains of the Twin City Grain company in East Stanwood. This was one of the more devastating fires battled by our local fire departments at the time. The view is from below the viaduct looking east. The tracks where the rail crossing sign are for the spur of the GN Railroad to the Pictsweet cannery building. Read more in the ***Stanwood*** book below.

## New Books -

Check out our collection of new titles:

New book on "Stanwood" and "All Roads Lead to Utsalady" by Richard Hanks.

Available at SAHS or local retailers.



## Thank you to our Volunteers in the recent months.

Jerry King, Chris Rezendes, Bill Blandin, Janet Mayer, Joan McConnell, Diane Anderson, Pat Bronson, Diane Anderson, Robin & Richard Hanks, Laurie Dilday, Penny Meenderinck, Marvin Flones, Rick Anderson, Bill Keller, Jack Freberg, Janet Mayer, Don Simonson, Ramona Snowden, Olin Williams, Jim Dubois, Garrett Williams, Gail Olsen, Rae & Dale Burt, Kathleen & Scott Chase, Carol Covert, Jim & Barbara Joyce, Laurie Dilday, David Pelletier, Dale Burt.

Dear Members, Volunteers & Supporters

The Stanwood Area Historical Society brings together people who have a casual interest in history as well as those who are passionate about antiques, old photographs, technology, clothing, old automobiles, honoring Veterans etc. Some are lifetime residents and others are new to the community.

Thanks to all for a successful year preserving our history and providing tours, programs, exhibits and new publications! This year we held a successful Membership Dinner to reach out for additional new volunteers. We received a number of the potential volunteers who we hope will eventually take on leadership of some of our projects and programs. Many of our projects are ongoing with regular weekly or monthly volunteer hours, some are occasional one hour commitments, but all take planning and management, publicity, and funding.

Among the many projects are an oral history program with contributions by local members of the community. Other projects include caring for our artifacts and antiques, photograph and other objects relevant to the Stanwood Camano area history. New exhibits that require writing, designing and interpreting the many stories of Stanwood and Camano Island past. We would also like to continue to provide history speakers on Sunday afternoon. The list goes on and while we don't want to admit some of us are aging, we would love have some younger voices and new ideas.

Many thanks to our very part time paid staff: **Judy Fernandes**, who rents the Floyd as the Hall Manager, **Carl Libbey** who keeps our books, and our new custodian, **Joy Simberg**. Be sure to call Judy for family celebrations and community events. (fnccmanager@sahs-fncc.org!)  
---Editor

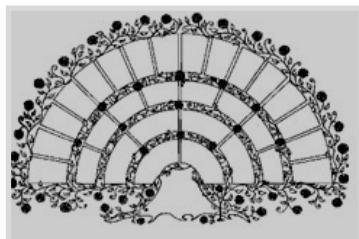
### Camwood Genealogy Workshop

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

(Holiday Mondays might be changed to the following Monday)



## Stanwood Area Historical Society 2025 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

### 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.*

### Welcome to New & Renewed Members:

Linda & Ted Johnson, Don & Mary Schultz, Rae & Dale Burt, Charlotte and Paul Shoup, Dan Mullene, Peggy Wendel, Karen & Jeff Camp, Yonnah Levy, Richard Clise, Chris Rezendes, Laura Byers, Rorick & Debbie Engel, Charlotte & Paul Shoup

### Contact Us!

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

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

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

<https://thefloydnorgaard.org>

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

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



## Old Fashioned Christmas 2025

Many thanks to Dave Baggenstos captured in a quiet moment disguised as Santa Claus. He awaits the next children for their pictures with him this year during the Old Fashioned Christmas at the Floyd. December 6th. Dave has been volunteering for at least 15 years !



To numerous to mention, thanks to the Santa Day Committee organized by Bill Keller, Rose King, Richard and Robin Hanks.



Historic Preservation and conservation of our buildings is one of our ongoing projects. Many of our projects are done by volunteers. This year Jerry King had to re-finish the area damaged by oil that continues to seep. It is now ready for dancing! Thank you Jerry for all of your skilled efforts - past and present. I'm sure he would welcome a trainee volunteer!

**Rent The Floyd**  
STANWOOD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

perfect for your next:  
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Reception      Memorial  
Party      Gathering

360-629-6110  
fnccmanager@sahs-fncc.org  
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### Are You Estate Planning?

Please consider remembering the Stanwood Area Historical Society (SAHS) in your plans. SAHS is a 501 c3 non profit. We are dedicated to preserving local history and sharing it through events, exhibits and tours. Donations like yours help us keep the doors open so we can share our history with future generations!

Paypal link is on our website sidebar

[www.sahs-fncc.org](http://www.sahs-fncc.org)

Credit cards can be used on this website.

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). Please help support this publication and other projects and programs with your membership dues, or business sponsorship. Contact us: [info@sahs-fncc.org](mailto:info@sahs-fncc.org)

Stanwood Area Historical Society

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

Donate with PayPal

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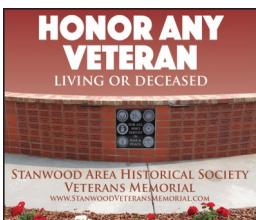
**A Special Thank You**  
to our sponsors



Thank You Thank You Thank You  
for donations received  
September 1st - November 30th

#### **Donations In Memory Of**

**Dave Eldridge** - Jane Sundberg Swartz  
**Jerry Heichel** - Class of 1964  
**Leif Holmes** - John Smistad, Pam Fugier  
**Marilyn Templeton** - John Smistad



#### **Brick Donors**

**Robert & Emelia Oneal**  
**Friends of Legion 207**  
**Bill & Relene Tonheim**  
**Captain J. C. Anderson**  
**Daniel & Brigitte Boyd**  
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#### **General Donations**

**Deborah Engel, Gary & Marlene Reineke, John Saimons, Christopher Rezendez, Utsalady Ladies Aid, Margaret Buse, Ed & Ramona Snowden, Lt Col Anthony Tysseling, Karen & David Pelletier, Camano Plaza Market**

#### **2026 Snow Goose Festival Sponsors**

**Northwest Swan Conservation, Pilchuck  
Audubon (so far)**

#### **Keeping our Museum Open !**

Volunteers are welcome to help keep our museum open to the public. Please let us know if you have an interest in actively participating!

Exhibits are open Wednesdays and Saturdays 1—4 pm or by appointment! 360-629-6110

#### **Volunteers welcome - join us !**

We have added new software that will make it easier to communicate to with our members.

Please make sure we have your personal email.

*Please send us your current email address !  
to fnccmanager@sahs-fncc.org*



## Make a donation to the Stanwood Area Historical Society

Help us preserve our irreplaceable collections and historic buildings and share them with our community.

Your contributions are tax deductible to you and will be used in support of history education, preservation projects, collections care, exhibits and programs. 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.

Memberships are due annually in January for the following calendar year. (You may join anytime.)

This is a significant means of support for the Society and includes a subscription to the newsletter. There is still time to make a year-end donation to the Stanwood Area Historical Society. Your support helps us preserve and share the rich history of our community, and qualifying contributions made before December 31 may be eligible for a 2025 tax deduction. Another meaningful way to give is by directing your IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) directly to SAHS, which may offer a convenient way to reduce taxable income. We deeply appreciate your continued generosity and dedication to keeping Stanwood's story alive!



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ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal / New (please circle one)

Email (Meetings, Program/Activities notifications) \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Please note if you wish to make a memorial or honorary donation.**

**Individual Membership:** \$50.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Paypal / Credit Card option available**

**Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**See website: [www.sahs-fncc.org](http://www.sahs-fncc.org)**

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