



## Life is Good

By Neil Anderson

A popular tune by the Beatles begins with the words, "There are places I remember"..... Well, as a kid in the late 1950s and early 1960s, summertime picnics at the beach in Mukilteo do the trick for me. Edgewater Beach, McConnell's Beach and the State Park.

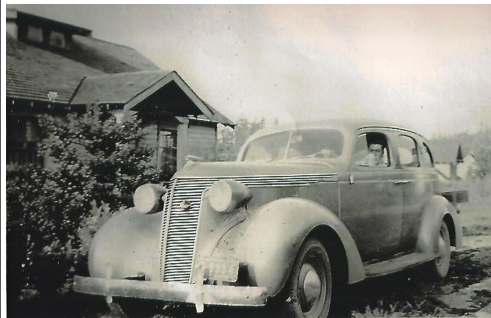


Jeanne Hartley Anderson at Mukilteo Beach State Park 1953

My mother and father grew up in Mukilteo during the 1930's and 1940's, William "Bill" Anderson and Jeanne Hartley. Difficult times with the Great Depression and the beginning days of World War II. Overall, we heard nothing but the fun and great times they had growing up in Mukilteo. Small town, good friends, everyone in the same boat, so to speak. A much simpler time with no TV, freeways or fast food restaurants. Fathers worked at the mills in Everett and mothers stayed home and baked apple pies. The little town with a ferry dock seemed like a magical place to me from the stories I heard them tell. Kind of the Walton's Mountain of Washington State!

My folks married in 1953, started the family and were fairly typical of post-World War II baby-boom families. When summers rolled around, the

family station wagon was loaded up with picnic baskets, coolers and beach gear for the trip to Mukilteo from our house in Everett on any sunny Saturday or Sunday. McConnell's Beach was usually the target and this was my favorite beach. Hot dogs, B & M baked beans, and potato salad. Of course, on the way to the beach, we had to drive by my dad's old house at 4<sup>th</sup> and Loveland (still there) as well as my mom's old house near Powder Mill Gulch (still there).



William Anderson in car at 830 4th St. looking east

The smell of salt air, seaweed, sand and driftwood is forever etched into my memory. My brother Ed and I spent all day in the water with our snorkels, fins and diving masks. My mother must have been worried sick as we were always underwater, except for the one hour break she got when we had to stay out of the water for exactly one hour after eating the picnic dinner. Otherwise, if we even touched the water during that one hour period, a massive leg cramp would apparently be inflicted upon us making swimming and surviving impossible. So, not to tempt fate, we in turn built driftwood forts or skipped rocks on the water.

Everything at the beach was so inter-

esting. From McConnell's Beach, Ed and I would walk or paddle our tire inner tubes eastward to get a better look at the oil tankers moored at the tank farm dock. We tried to be sneaky as there were numerous U. S. Air Force signs on the fences indicating no trespassing on government property. Being kids, we did not think we would be accused of being spies, but you never know, so our missions to look at the tankers were fairly quick. We searched for smokewood in the driftwood. When swimming at McConnell's Beach, the temperature of the water would always change after the ferry departed from the dock, as the propeller and prop wash pushed the water into fast moving currents along the beach. Low tides always exposed new things on the beach. We would take a short walk over to the Ferry Lunch (Ivar's) and check out the bait tanks along the west side of the building. Of course, we had to always step into McConnell's Boathouse to check out the photos of recently caught salmon on a bulletin board hanging on the wall inside the boathouse. You know, I do like the smell of mountain fresh air, but nothing brings back memories than a Puget Sound boathouse with the combined smell of fish, motor oil, gasoline, creosote, saltwater and outboard engine exhaust. Pretty powerful stuff as other old timers have indicated. There was so much more ship traffic passing in front of Mukilteo back in those days. Giant cargo ships heading to and out of Everett carrying logs, lumber and paper. Tugboats pulling log booms and barges filled with sawdust. Back then, Seattle barged their garbage to a site near Tulalip and those barges (cont'd on page 4)

Lisa Romo

## Message from our President

What a beautiful day it is today!

Although our summer has been quite S-L-O-W in its arrival this year, days like today with the sun warmly visible and the sky a calming blue color, we forgive the delay and appreciate the moment.

Speaking of appreciating the moment (or in this case moments), there are several folks I would like to 'tip my hat' to in appreciation.

**The Light Station Volunteers:** Even though the weather this year may have slowed our numbers a little, this season we are still able to open the station each weekend for visitors, special tours, gift shop customers and weddings because of our dedicated volunteers!



**General Meeting Participants:** For those who attend our general meetings, you'll agree with me that there's a terrific trend going on there. First off Christopher Summitt and his Mukilteo Minute..... Hat's Off, Mister! I am always amazed at his presentation – both style and content. Second is Bob Templeton and the Guest Speaker Program – very interesting and engaging to say the least.....Tip of the hat to you as well!! Then all of you who attend – I appreciate you tremendously. After Becky and I wrap up the meetings we comment on what a terrific meeting it was and I'm sure John Collier agrees for the months he presides.

There are many more moments of appreciation for me in relation to the Historical Society and its members, volunteers and committees and always THANK YOU!!



A few upcoming events to be aware of this next month:

### **Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival and The Pioneer of the Year Ceremony.**

The Festival runs the entire weekend as you know, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Ceremony for our Pioneer of the Year, Tudy Scheller Erickson, will be on the front porch of Quarters A on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. There is an article in this newsletter regarding our Pioneer of the Year. Remember to come celebrate with us on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Lisa Romo ♦

### **2012 Program Schedule**

The following are the programs planned for the balance of this year at our MHS monthly membership meetings.

*September 13th - "What's happening in Mukilteo", Mayor Joe Marine*

*October 11th - "Bears & Barnacles - Critters in Our Backyard", Joe Gaydos (Tentative until confirmed)*

*November 8th - "Year in Review", Lisa Romo and Nancy Joao*

Meetings start at 7:15pm. ♦

### **Want To Go Paperless?**

Wouldn't you like to see this newsletter in color? The printed copy does not do justice to the photos and graphics, but printing color copies for mailing is too expensive. So how about going paperless?

This MHS Newsline is uploaded to our website in color each quarter within a few days of its completion and can be viewed and/or printed there.

Website: [www.mukilteohistorical.org](http://www.mukilteohistorical.org)

If you are interested in no longer receiving a paper copy in the mail, please let us know. The Society will then be on track to saving both printing and mailing costs.

Email Nancy Joao at [njoao@frontier.com](mailto:njoao@frontier.com) to make this change to a paperless, color copy.

Thank you. ♦

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Special Tour Coordinator - contact Karen Carpenter at 425-347-2719 or [kjcarp1@comcast.net](mailto:kjcarp1@comcast.net)

Gift Shop Manager – contact Lisa Romo at 425-374-7968 or [LMR0522@aol.com](mailto:LMR0522@aol.com)

Tower and Gift Shop volunteers needed for Labor Day, September 3rd and a fifth weekend, Saturday, September 29th and Sunday, September 30th - contact Nancy Joao at 425-334-8914 or by email at [njoao@frontier.com](mailto:njoao@frontier.com). ♦

**Visitors to the Mukilteo****Lighthouse 2011**

The following numbers were compiled by Bev Schreiber, from visitors who signed the lighthouse Guest Book.

**USA VISITORS 5470**

21	Alabama
17	Alaska
82	Arizona
11	Arkansas
258	California
74	Colorado
9	Connecticut
4	Delaware
2	District of Columbia
62	Florida
26	Georgia
14	Hawaii
42	Idaho
41	Illinois
14	Indiana
12	Iowa
73	Kansas
6	Kentucky
4	Louisiana
8	Maine
17	Maryland
26	Massachusetts
32	Michigan
41	Minnesota
7	Mississippi
15	Missouri
51	Montana
3	Nebraska
34	Nevada
2	New Hampshire
5	New Jersey
18	New Mexico
30	New York
11	North Carolina
15	North Dakota
44	Ohio
16	Oklahoma
107	Oregon

25	Pennsylvania
2	Puerto Rico
7	Rhode Island
11	South Carolina
6	South Dakota
9	Tennessee
96	Texas
45	Utah
0	Vermont
27	Virginia
3958	Washington
5	West Virginia
19	Wisconsin
6	Wyoming

**FOREIGN VISITORS 487**

1	Afghanistan
10	Alberta
6	Argentina
1	Armenia
14	Australia
2	Bangladesh
1	Belarus
13	Brazil
172	Canada
1	Chile
25	China
10	Colombia
1	Czech Republic
3	Denmark
2	Dominican Republic
1	Egypt
11	England
1	Estonia
1	Fiji Islands
2	Finland
13	France
14	Germany
1	Guam
1	Guatemala
4	Holland
27	India
2	Indonesia
1	Iran

3	Iraq
6	Ireland
2	Israel
3	Italy
20	Japan
1	Kenya
5	Korea
2	Libya
6	Mexico
1	Moldavia
3	Morocco
1	Nepal
1	New Zealand
1	Nicaragua
3	Norway
2	Peru
5	Philippines
3	Romania
40	Russia
5	Scotland
2	South Africa
1	South Korea
1	Spain
1	Taiwan
6	Thailand
12	Ukraine
10	United Kingdom

**TOTAL VISITORS 5957**

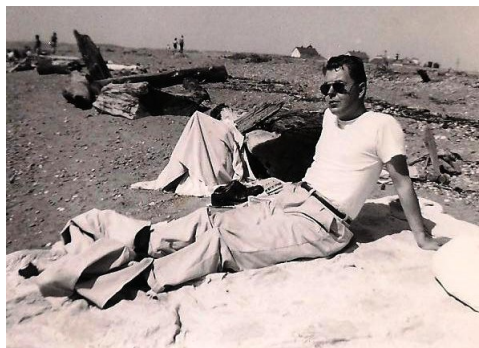
As noted these numbers are not an exact count, but still very impressive.

Thank you Bev for compiling the numbers and Lisa Romo for organizing the list. ♦



(cont'd from page 1)

would be packed with seagulls as the tug and barge made their way north past Mukilteo. U.S. Air Force fighter jets departing the Paine Field Air Force Base sounded like thunder if the jets took off in a northerly direction and out over the sound. If the pilot kicked on the afterburners, a huge cone shaped flame shot out from the back of the jet. It was a spectacular sight. At Edgewater Beach, in the late afternoon, Ed and I would climb the rock bulkhead to be as close to the railroad tracks as possible to watch the Great Northern Railway "Empire Builder" speed by on the trip up to Everett and then on to Glacier National Park and Chicago. Painted in the GN colors of orange and green, the train sped past us in a blur and the engineer usually pulled the cord to sound the horn as we moved our arms in an up and down motion. Mom was always worried about this part of the day. She always told us to keep way back from the tracks or we would be sucked into the wheels of the fast moving passenger train due to mom's expert knowledge of the well-known vacuum created by the Empire Builder. As we did not want to take any chances with our luck, Ed and I heeded her warning.



William Anderson at Mukilteo beach  
State Park 1953

If the afternoon was windy, we usually had the picnic over at the state park to watch all the commotion at the boat ramp as weekend boaters attempted to get their boats onto the boat trailers after a day on the sound.

What we saw then would be feature performances on the TV show, "America's Funniest Videos". The bigger the waves, the louder the yelling and panic with the rookie boat owners. (You know who you are!!) Dad said there would be a "for sale" sign on many boats before the car, boat and trailer left the parking lot.

All the fun was not limited to the summer. During winter storms, mom and dad would load us kids up in the car and head down to Mukilteo to watch the waves. Mom and dad were good friends with the Losvar family. If the wind was from the north, we would watch the sights from the Losvar Boathouse. One dandy of a storm, I was on the beach at the water's edge for good close-ups of the ferry attempting to land at the Mukilteo Dock. It was a huge storm and the ferry "Olympic" was on a second attempt. The wind, waves and current got the ferry out of position again forcing the ferry to miss the dock. Then I realized the ferry is heading for the beach and me. I could see the captain in the wheelhouse and he could see me. The captain had the engines reversed to back away but it was too late. The ferry hit a small Losvar dock in front of the boathouse reducing the dock to kindling. All right in front of me and, as a 9 year old boy, this was pretty exciting. The bow of the ferry then hit the beach and I could see the top of the propeller spinning around kicking up all the sand and gravel from the beach. I swear the front end car deck was right on top of me but the scene was way too cool to move back. All I could think was that this was just something you don't see every day!! I would have the best "show and tell" story Monday morning for my class at the Washington Elementary School in Everett. The captain backed the Olympic off the beach and headed back to Whidbey. I could see the ferry "Rhododendron" over at the Whidbey dock and was hoping she would try to make the crossing being a little bigger than the Olympic. However, the Rhody stayed put as I

am sure the Olympic captain radioed the Mukilteo conditions.

But, back to summer. Usually, after a day at the beach, we headed back to our house in north Everett before sunset. The air cooled and we were just plain tired. The car was now filled with sandy beach towels, deflated inner tubes, empty blue Craigmont Cola soda cans and wet swimming trunks. But there was one more stop. The little Edgewater Store on the boulevard as you left town. I don't remember what the store was called back then but they had the best ice cream sandwiches. Probably cost a dime or maybe even a nickel but the ice cream sandwiches were the dessert treats for everyone. If we were lucky, we each got two ice cream sandwiches. Now this was living.

Life was good. ♦

### MHS Schedule



- September 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> - Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival
- September 8<sup>th</sup> - Parade participation, 10:15am, Harbour Pointe, more info to follow
- September 8<sup>th</sup> - Pioneer of the Year and Citizen of the Year Ceremony, 3pm, Light Station, in front of Qtrs. A
- September 30<sup>th</sup> - End of Season Potluck, 5:30pm
- November 8<sup>th</sup> - Election of 2013 Officers and Directors ♦

## **Don't Miss the Display on "Fire Fighting Through the Years"**

A display entitled, "Fire Fighting Through the Years," opened to the public in April in honor of all of Mukilteo's firefighters, past and present. The artifacts and pictures bear witness to the courage and skills of all those who have worked to protect people and property in Mukilteo for over 90 years. The display on fire fighting is located in Quarters B and is part of a continuing exhibit, "Mukilteo: The Way We Were."

A catalyst for creating the display was Thelma Kane's gift to MHS of the fire-fighting equipment (helmet, coat, trousers, and boots) which her husband Ron Kane wore as a Mukilteo volunteer firefighter. Beverly "Bevo" Dudder Ellis also helped a lot in the planning for the display, reflecting a heritage in which both her father and her husband served as chiefs of the Mukilteo Volunteer Fire Department.

Mukilteo's current fire department loaned fire helmets, nozzles for hoses, a vintage Oxygen Breathing Apparatus, and a length of hose from the 1941 fire truck, as well as providing several historic photos. On the opening day of the display, the department brought a fire truck and emergency vehicle to the lighthouse grounds, to the delight of numerous visitors and their children. The loaned items will be returned to the fire department after the season ends on September 30, but the photographs and other items from the Mukilteo Historical Society will remain on display. ♦

## **Mass Planting at the Light Station**

June 2, 2012 at 9:30am, a group of volunteers were on the light station grounds ready and waiting to start this year's mass planting. Actual start time was 10am, but all were anxious to get their hands dirty. But before this planting project could occur, many activities had already been completed.

The Society was fortunate this year to apply for and receive a \$1000 grant

from the City of Mukilteo for the mass planting. One of the stipulations to receive the grant money was to have a Master Gardener sign off on the garden plan. We were fortunate to have our own "go to" Master Gardener, Lois Brown, perform this task. With the garden plan in hand, Lois and members of the garden group did a walk around the light station grounds. Lois then made some great suggestions for future planting and signed off on our plan to assist us in receiving the grant money.

Once the garden plan was signed off, Ellen Koch ordered 514 plants from Flower World. Ellen and her husband, Charlie, picked up the plants and delivered them to the garden shed to await planting. Ellen also designed eye-catching flyers to advertise the mass planting. These flyers were distributed to shops and businesses in town.



Mitch Owensby and grandson Liam.

As always Mitch Owensby was our "Augerman". He came with his auger ready to dig, or was it drill, the many holes needed for the plants. The auger was equipped with an extra-long shaft as a back saving device and Mitch was able to keep just ahead of the planters. He was assisted by his grandson Liam and his "overseer" granddaughter Teagan.

Margaret Summitt and Sheila McGillivray were our greeters and manned the sign-in table. This table also contained refreshments. The garden group knows how to keep their volunteers happy.

Of the twenty eight volunteers who

helped with the mass planting, fifteen were MHS members, seven were non-members and six were children. This is an increase of seven people over last year's planting. Char Keane remarked that she loved that the children (maybe future MHS members?) got involved again this year.



Various volunteers working in the large bed.



Ellen also made whirlygigs which she placed in various flower beds. This was to alert volunteers that beds were available for adoption. Ellen's effort brought us four more adopters. We now have a total of eight beds adopted. If you have questions on what adopting a bed involves, contact Char Keane at 425-355-9499.



By noon, the last plants were planted, miscellaneous tools and bags were picked up and the grounds looked beautiful. Another project accomplished with a fantastic group of volunteers. Thank you to all who participated. ♦

## Mas Odoi Receives Congressional Gold Medal

On November 2, 2011, Mas Odoi, along with other surviving second-generation Japanese American veterans who enlisted in the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team during WWII, received the Congressional Gold Medal at a ceremony in Washington, DC.



Mas Odoi and his nephew, Steve, being greeted at Washington, DC airport.

Mas, a Mukilteo Historical Society member and past Mukilteo Pioneer of the Year, was accompanied by his family to Washington, DC. They participated in a three day program that included a ceremony in the DC Visitors Center Emancipation Hall and a tour of historic sites in the DC area.

These second-generation Japanese Americans, along with their parents, had been considered national security risks. They were interned early during the war after the attack on Pearl Harbor. In spite of adversity, these brave Nisei men fought valiantly in Europe to help the United States win the war.



Mas Odoi at the Seattle Nisei Veterans Committee Japanese Americans Memorial Wall



Congressional Gold Medal

Linnell Stanhope, Mas's niece, recently corresponded with Diane Tinsley and provided the photos and information for this article. ♦

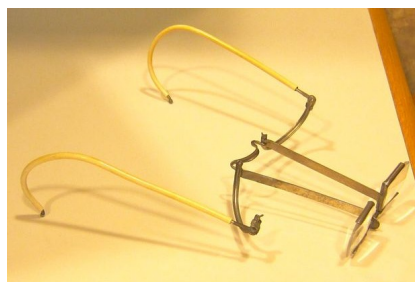
## Mukilteo Storytellers at the Festival

The Mukilteo Storytellers are incorporating several different aspects of their outreach-oriented group into the Festival this year.

Along with taking part in the parade, storytellers and friends are participating in programs at the Light Station throughout the weekend. They will also be strolling, as in the past, among festival participants throughout the weekend at the Lighthouse Park and Sunday only, 1-5pm, on the grounds of the historic Hogland House at 917 Webster Street.

This is the first year that the Mukilteo Storytellers will perform at regularly scheduled times at the band shell in the Lighthouse Park. Lighthouse Keeper Peter Christiansen, AKA Robert Smith, and school teacher Sheila McGillivray, as well as several other storytellers, will be participating in this outreach program.

The Mukilteo Storytellers have already been seeking out and collecting "hidden antique treasures" that are "finds around town". An example of this kind of treasure is the antique dental drill and antique eyeglasses that Diane Tinsley dis-



Antique eyeglasses.

Photo courtesy of Diane Tinsley.

covered one day on a routine visit to the office of her dentist, Kristopher Johnson.



Antique Dental Drill

Photo courtesy of Diane Tinsley

The Mukilteo Storytellers are encouraging other history buffs to look about their homes, offices, and every day encounters to be able to notice other "hidden antique treasures." We ask you to photograph, write a short story, or just come to the Mukilteo Storytellers' outreach table to share your finds with other festival participants.

In addition to an informal "Show and Tell" of "historic finds", the Mukilteo Storytellers are encouraging festival participants to come in costume or historical attire to take part in a juried talent show for the public. The costume need only be a hat, cane, or special accessory. Performers will be given a special nametag in recognition of their adventurous disposition.

The Sunday program, at the historic Hogland House, will include a special music performance as well as a presentation by Steve Bertrand, author of *Images of America, Mukilteo*. Mukilteo senior, Joe Polocz, an accomplished 91-year-old Historic Flight volunteer, will demonstrate his skills and talents.

All groups will give witness to the theme, *"We never get too old to have fun through storytelling and providing excellent community services to other Mukilteans and visitors from the ages of 2 years to over 250 years of age."* Be forewarned, you may even see George Vancouver make a return visit to Mukilteo for the festival. ♦

**Marlene "Tudy" Scheller Erickson,**  
**Mukilteo's Pioneer of the Year,**  
**2012**



Tudy Erickson, Pioneer of the Year, was guest of honor at the Mukilteo Historical Society meeting on August 9. Tudy reminisced about growing up in Mukilteo, mentioning swimming at McConnell's beach as one of her favorite memories. Tudy was accompanied by her daughter, Cindy, who also grew up in Mukilteo.



The house where Tudy was born: Grandpa Richter's house, still there at the corner of 4th and Loveland. Pictured: Tudy's parents, John and Margaret Richter Scheller and Grandpa Art Richter.

Marlene "Tudy" Scheller was born in Mukilteo on March 26, 1936. Her grandmother Bertha Richter, nicknamed her Trudy, which was later shortened to Tudy. She attended Rosehill School through ninth grade; she also remembers fondly her work at Chandler's Drug Store during her teen years. She graduated from Everett High in 1954.

Tudy met Lawrence Erickson on a blind date and they were married in 1955. Tudy and Lawrence raised their family in Mukilteo. They lived near Tudy's parents, and Tudy was involved in taking care of nephews and nieces as well as her own three children. She was active in Royal Neigh-

bors social club, Little League, Cub Scouts, and other organizations in Mukilteo. She recalled how simple and safe life was in Mukilteo at the time: kids could walk anywhere, no one locked their doors, and much of the outside world seemed far away. Although the world seems to have changed, Tudy is still very active in her Marysville neighborhood, editing and printing the Club 59 newspaper and helping with many club activities.

Lawrence Erickson, Tudy's husband, was raised in Everett. Tudy and Lawrence met after he had served in the Navy. He worked as a supervisor at Scott Paper company. He was a Mukilteo Volunteer Fire Fighter, 1966-1981. Tudy and Lawrence had three children. The Ericksons moved to Marysville after Tudy's mother died in 1991. Lawrence died in 2010.

Tudy's grandparents, Art and Bertha Richter, ran the Klemp Hotel until it burned in 1926. Art had been a carpenter in Ballard before coming to Mukilteo. He continued in construction around Mukilteo, including raising the Presbyterian Church for foundation work.



Mukilteo, 1939, Dutcher's in background. On the left, John Scheller, Tudy's father, is holding Jerry (one of Tudy's brothers) and Tudy.

Tudy's mother, Margaret Richter Scheller, lived in Mukilteo her whole life. John Scheller was working on a bridge between Mukilteo and Everett when they met. At first they lived at 1001 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Later they bought a house at 822 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, which is still standing and still painted green. Tudy and Lawrence lived across the street, at 829 2<sup>nd</sup> St., but their house has been replaced.

John Scheller, Tudy's father, was born in Russia, although his parents were German. He came to the US by himself as an adult. John died in 1958, and Margaret supported the younger kids (Tudy is the second of six) who were still in school.

Tudy will be riding in a Model T Ford Touring Car in the Lighthouse Festival Parade on Saturday, September 8, and will be honored at a ceremony and reception at the lighthouse at 3pm later that day. ♦



**Mukilteo Historical Society Inc.**  
**304 Lincoln Avenue, Suite 101**  
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**2012**

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