



Charles at Smugglers Cove: If only the walls could talk...

by John and Ann Collier

Most of you have already heard about the sale of the property and restaurant, "Charles at Smugglers Cove." Soon the silent walls may well be tumbling down and the property returned to residential use, possibly in the form of luxury condos.



The home and restaurant, "Waldheim by the Sea," in the mid-1950s. (Courtesy of Everett Public Library.)

There is no fully researched record of the property, but the popular history of Mukilteo is filled with references to its role as a smuggling site, up-scale residential use, and fine restaurants.

C.P. Richards, a former Seattle police officer, constructed a shell on the site from 1929 to 1931 to use as a base for distilling mash smuggled in from Canada. Richards dug out a sub-basement under the original concrete basement floor and constructed a false furnace to hide the trap door used for access. He built a still in the sub-basement to turn the mash into whiskey and a rough get-away tunnel connected to the nearby gulch that led to Puget Sound.

The property's claim to outlaw fame was actually quite brief: the still blew up shortly after operations began and needed repairs; then agents raided it and cemented over the sub-basement in 1932; and then Prohibition ended in 1933.

But while it lasted, smuggling was big business in and around the wooded gulches of the Mukilteo area. The property became well known and was frequented by such colorful characters as "Charlie the Pup," "Short Card Johnson," and another former Seattle police officer who became "King of the Rum-Runners," Roy Olmstead.

It was just south of Mukilteo that Olmstead was finally captured while transporting the largest shipment of liquor reportedly ever seized in the Northwest.

The Axel Jensen family actually turned the unfinished structure into a comfortable residence at the end of World War II. The three Jensen daughters remember fondly their childhood there, including games with old whiskey bottles uncovered by their father. In the early 1950s, the home was sold for \$18,000 to Trudy and Dennis Tobiason, who remodeled the house to include a restaurant, "Waldheim by the Sea."

The tradition of fine dining was continued in 1979 when the Tobiasons

sold the property and the "53rd Street Manor" was opened. The new chef and co-owner, Rick Infelise, traded heavily on the property's notorious origins in an advertisement from the mid-eighties:

"...the 53rd Street Manor, unlike other restaurants provides dinners with...a cultural experience unparalleled (sic) in the Northwest. Diners experience a touch of yesteryear (the walls with-in whisper Bathtub Ginn)"...We cordially invite you...to sit before a picture window, gaze up-on the waters and imagine scenes from a wild and wicked yesteryear."

The tradition of large-scale events was also continued as Infelise offered a wedding package for 100 guests with a full buffet for \$550, or one could purchase the \$375 "mini-package" which featured only hors d'oeuvres.



Enjoying the beautiful grounds at the wedding reception of Bill Anderson and Jeanne Hartley, August 1, 1953. (Courtesy of Neil Anderson.)

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A Message from our President

2016 is a notable year! We celebrate our 50th year as a Society and the 110th anniversary of the opening of the Mukilteo Light Station, as well as the regular partial changeover of Officers and Directors. I am honored to be selected as the 21st President of the Mukilteo Historical Society, and privileged to work alongside the Board and all the volunteers who keep it running. I have so enjoyed meeting everyone who comes to our Membership Meetings and hearing about why they are involved in our Society. There is so much going on that I am kept hopping trying to keep up with all the activity!

We members of MHS recognize the value of engaging with history—not just cataloging it, but weaving it into our lives. We recognize that our community, Mukilteo, is not, nor ever will be, relegated to suburb status, but is in fact a destination. Mukilteo has character and an identity, distinguished from other cities by, of course, its landmarks, but also by its history. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, “We are not makers of history. We are made *by* history.” Dr. King recognized that each community and every person is shaped by the compilation of all the people who have ever touched down there, and by the experiences and memories they created.

As those before us shaped their future and built the foundation on which we now stand, we build on this foundation for future generations. We are creating history, every day. History is alive; history is in color. Every member of MHS, every Mukilteo devotee, engages with history. We all have different reasons for being part of MHS, but we all have one thing in common—history is in our DNA. We share this city’s history among each other. History has shaped who we became, and we will shape those who come after us by the history we create today. The next generation, and *this* generation... connected by that common DNA.

Hans-Georg Gadamer, in his book, *Truth and Method*, wrote, “History does not belong to us. We belong to it.” Just as the Light Keepers were stewards of the flame, we are charged—and entrusted—with the responsibility of keeping the history; we are history’s stewards. But not merely by documenting names, dates, and tombstones—we are the stewards of what will be passed on to those who follow us. History is living and active, and what we do today, shaped *by* history, *becomes* history.

And that means we need an active and vibrant active Historical Society. In 2016 we are focusing on how we can get more people to engage with history. We are connecting with schools and community colleges, libraries, businesses, and individuals old and young...anyone and everyone who can add to the collective history of our community. We will show this next generation *why* we’re a part of MHS, why history is active, and relevant, and worth their time. And, as they see our passion, it will fire their interest to engage with history, continuing the cycle for the future.

Thank you for being part of the Mukilteo Historical Society.

Don Saul, President ♦



MHS Calendar

Saturday, March 5, 10 am to noon, **Volunteer Training**, Lighthouse.

Thursday, March 10, 7:15-8:45 pm, **Monthly Membership Meeting**, Rosehill.

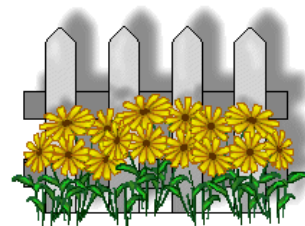
Saturday, March 12, noon, **Key Holder Training**, Lighthouse.

Saturday, March 19, 1 pm to 3 pm, **Volunteer Training**, Lighthouse.

Saturday, March 26, **Light Station Cleaning**, Lighthouse.

Saturday, April 2, noon, **Opening Ceremony**, Lighthouse.

Saturday, April 14, 7:15-8:45 pm, **Monthly Membership Meeting**, Rosehill. ♦



Gardeners Needed

Do you enjoy gardening? MHS needs gardening volunteers to keep the gardens looking fabulous in the 2016 season. Experience not required. For more information, contact Joanne Mulloy at joanne-mulloy@comcast.net.

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Claude and Janet Faure opened “Charles at Smugglers Cove” in 1989, and promptly proceeded to enhance the site’s reputation for fine dining. According to Rebecca Carr in a 2001 *Beacon* article, guests in the 1990s included several celebrities, such as Katherine Graham, Pat-ty Duke, and Farrah Fawcett.



Wedding of Bill Anderson and Jeanne Hartley, August 1, 1953 at Waldheim.

Many residents in Mukilteo today recall fondly the exquisite meals and grand events they enjoyed at the restaurant. But after Claude died in 2014, Janet decided it was time to retire and the property was put on the market.

While its future remains uncertain, the property’s storied past would seem to warrant some kind of historical marker or interpretive sign to remind residents and visitors alike of the deeds and misdeeds of those who previously walked the grounds and plied the nearby waters. ♦



From Mukilteo to Moscow

When Laura Calza visited the Mukilteo Light Station in 2014, she was so taken by our Quarters B Lighthouse Keeper’s Cottage that she decided she wanted to live in a house just like it. She wrote to MHS for information, and Ann Collier responded with copies of the original architectural drawings of Quarters B. In May, 2015, Laura came back to Mukilteo to take lots of photos of the moldings, trim, staircase, and other features.

And now MHS recently received some photos of the house as it is being built in Moscow, Idaho (no, not Russia!). Laura related in a recent email to Ann that “It certainly has a long way to go to becoming just like the keepers cottage, but we have the main “bones” built now and are currently in the interior painting stage. Once we move in we can start working on molding and pretty things that make the keepers cottage so incredibly charming...I finally had to tape up pictures of the Mukilteo keepers cottage around the job site as the men doing the work ... were making things so modern! I have to keep saying “please...old school,” and they say, ‘You want us to build your new house, old?’ YES!”



Future home of Laura and Oly Calza in Moscow Idaho, based on the Mukilteo Lighthouse Keeper’s Cottage.

Laura and her husband, Oly, have two young girls, Gwen and Mera. Her note that came with the pictures said that they plan to visit Mukilteo soon when they will, among other things, “outfit the whole family in lighthouse clothes!”

We are certainly looking forward to their visit and to further progress on that little bit of Mukilteo in Moscow! ♦



Have You Paid Your 2016 Dues Yet?



Just a friendly reminder that annual dues are now due. If you have not paid your MHS dues for 2016, you can mail in payment using the form on the back of this newsletter, or bring your dues to the next MHS meeting.

Your dues help maintain the Mukilteo Light Station and the Mukilteo Historical Society archives. We hope to see you soon. Thanks for supporting your local historical society. ♦

Volunteer Training at the Mukilteo Lighthouse

Volunteers are needed for the upcoming summer season at the Mukilteo Light Station. All volunteers **MUST** attend one of the following training sessions:

- March 5th, 2016, 10:00 am—noon.

or

- March 19th, 2016, 1:00 pm—3 pm.

New Volunteers: This is your opportunity to join a team and learn what it takes to become a docent at the Light Station. Volunteers assist in the lighthouse, gift shop, or both! You'll also learn about the many other volunteer opportunities available within the Historical Society.

Returning Volunteers: This training gives you a chance to learn about any updates and changes that have happened since last season and to get retrained before the new season, including the new cash register process.

Training **MUST** be completed by everyone who volunteers at the Light Station.

Volunteers receive a **FREE VOLUNTEER BOOKLET** that provides lots of photos, fun facts, and history of the Lighthouse and Mukilteo. Join us, and join in the fun! ♦

Behind the Scenes at the Gift Shop

Selecting merchandise for the new season keeps your buyers busy year 'round. This process often starts before the gift shop closes in the fall, as the buyers are always looking for new items that will excite our customers.

Part of selecting new merchandise requires knowing what sold last year. Early in January, a super group of MHS volunteers completed an inventory of every item in the gift shop. The group included Patti Spangler, Renee Ripley, Candy Sterling, Herb Pridmore, Don Saul, Mary Dulin, and of course, your buyers.

After the inventory was done and the quantities were input into the inventory spreadsheets, your buyers met to make their buying decisions.

On January 22nd, the buyers spent the entire day at the Seattle Gift Show and Pacific Market Center. This day focused on making the major purchases for the season. This year, treasurer Daniel Valerio joined in the action.

Additional purchasing is done by email and phone with suppliers in Washington State, Canada, and across the U.S. A few suppliers also met us at the gift shop. We are working with over thirty suppliers this year to ensure that we stock an appealing variety of items.

Included in this variety will be youth size t-shirts, Washington State shaped magnets, and new jewelry styles from both Periwinkle and A.T. Storrs (aka Wild Pearle).



Magnets in the shape of Washington State will be available at the gift shop.

Stuffed animals on their way to the gift shop include sting rays, blue tang fish, narwhals, and Ahab the hump-back whale. A new glass mini in the form of a gecko is joining our Global Village menagerie. And yes, the Aqua Mesmerizers will be back by popular demand.

A major link in this process is the delivery of all the boxes that contain the new merchandise for the gift shop. Please join us again in thanking Becky and Mitch Owensby, who take delivery of much of the merchandise at their home and then transport the numerous items to the gift shop.

We hope the work of all those involved in getting the gift shop ready for 2016 will result in another exciting year. Be sure to stop in and check us out!

Thank you from your buyers,

Kim Nguyen and Nancy Joao ♦

From the Archives...

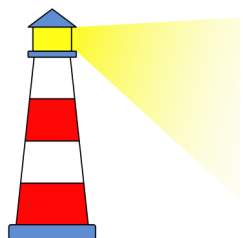
The name Louisa Fowler Sinclair may be familiar to many in Mukilteo Historical Society as the daughter of founder Jacob Fowler. Born in 1862, she was interviewed about her memories and experiences for the Washington Pioneer Project in 1936. The MHS archive includes a 4-page copy of the interview summary.

The interview includes many interesting anecdotes, and shows Mrs. Sinclair as an enterprising young person who learned to sew from her mother and then made and sold shirts to visitors to the trading post.

She also made and sold trinkets with shells and stones (a past-time she continued into adulthood with the elaborately decorated framed cross currently on display in Quarters B). She also made seine needles for fishermen using a small jig-saw. She states, "I always had money, though I had little use for it."

She also captures the time period when describing her father's work. "I often took care of the store while father was away on a trading trip. He would load up a boat, a small schooner, with flour and bright-colored cloth, and many small articles for trade, sail up Port Gardner Bay to the mouth of the Snohomish river and then up river as far as he could navigate. He would exchange his cargo for hides and cranberries, which upon his return he would ship to Tacoma. Most of his trading was with Indians—there were few white men along the Snohomish at that time."

Future newsletters may include more anecdotes from the interview with Louisa Fowler Sinclair. ♦



25% Lighthouse Grants Workshop

The 2016 Lighthouse Grants Workshop will be held on April 2 at Camp Casey on Whidbey Island. This is a great opportunity to meet other lighthouse supporters and learn about restoration efforts at area lighthouses. Historical architect Gene Grulich will address restoration of windows and doors. Another session will focus on working with kids at lighthouses. The lighthouse license plate program will also be discussed.

A full day program is planned from 9 am until 4 pm. A catered lunch is provided, and tours of Fort Casey and Admiralty Head Lighthouse are planned.

For more information or to sign up to attend, contact Don Meehan at dbmeehan26@gmail.com. ♦



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2016

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Return this form with your payment to:

Mukilteo Historical Society - 304 Lincoln Avenue, Suite 101, Mukilteo, WA 98275

Individual - \$15 ☐ Senior (65) - \$10 ☐ Senior Couple - \$20 ☐ Family - \$25 ☐

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