



## Hawthorne Hall, also called the Royal Neighbors Hall

This article was edited from a previous article by Ann and John Collier, first published in the *MHS Newsline* in Fall 2009. Introduction by Peter Anderson.

*As reported in the March 6, 2017, Mukilteo Beacon, the City Council has paved the way for the Boys and Girls Club to relocate from its present location to a new facility to be constructed in Harbour Pointe. The Council voted to separate the club's funding request from the question of what to do with the historic Hawthorne Hall, which the club has called home since 1961.*

*With the help of city and private funding, the club intends to start construction on a new 18,000 square foot facility in June of this year and vacate Hawthorne Hall in October 2018. This leaves plenty of time for the city to address the question of what to do with the historic Hawthorne Hall building and property.*



*Thelma Weers Kane standing in front of the Royal Neighbors Hall in 1928.*

Situated on the margins of a small mill town (Mukilteo had about 500 residents in the early 1920s), the Royal Neighbors Hall was not far from the Crown Lumber Company, which donated the actual building site on Second Street and most of the lumber for its construction.

The *Everett Herald*, as quoted in Opal McConnell's book, *Mukilteo Pictures and Memories*, highlighted the key role played by a local social and service club: "...people saw need for a large hall in which meetings and other community

*events could be held. At first, there was plenty of talk but not much action. Then the Royal Neighbors Lodge of Mukilteo took up the cause, and things began to move."*

Women of the town raised money, and the men volunteered to do the actual construction work on weekends and evenings. Still it took five years to complete the 50 x 90 foot building, which was formally named Hawthorne Hall at its grand opening in the mid-1920s.

The building, which soon came to be called the Royal Neighbors Hall, was remarkable for its 50-foot-wide span and arched dome-like interior ceiling which provided superb acoustics. It included a huge dance floor, kitchen facilities, a stage, and side rooms.

Many years later the wide Douglas fir horizontal shiplap siding attracted Northwest lumber experts to examine its remarkable preservation despite exposure to the elements (the downside of having a great water view!).

When the original Rosehill School burned down in 1928, the upper classes (5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades) were held in Royal Neighbors Hall. While this solution worked relatively well, it was not easy on the teachers. According to one of them, Mary Lou Morrow, "...On Fridays it was necessary to clear out all the furniture from the main hall to leave the floor available for other weekend social or club activities. This procedure was an added burden for the teachers, because

*the desks and chairs all had to be replaced on Monday morning before school."*

Royal Neighbors Hall was the meeting place for the Boy Scouts, local sportsmen, women's groups, and community organizations, such as the Mukilteo Improvement Club. A nursery school was held there, and there were numerous dinners and anniversary events.



*Royal Neighbors Hall, mid-1950s.*

The building was the headquarters for the volunteer fire department for five years, and served for some time as the regular meeting place for the Mukilteo Town Council. The spacious dance floor was even rented by fraternity groups from the University of Washington for special off-campus dances. One can just imagine the lotharios of the time waxing poetic about the magic of dancing the night away in far-away Mukilteo!

Beverly Dudder Ellis (Bevo) said that her favorite memory of an event in the Royal Neighbors Hall was her wedding shower held there. Bevo also has fond memories of the plays, in which she and

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## A Message from our President

I am privileged to serve as the President of MHS for 2017-18 and look forward to showing you how much our Board and membership have blossomed this spring.

This winter was dark and cold which made life appear dormant. In reality, a lot has been going on underground. Many seeds were planted by our previous Board, including acquiring new equipment to become compliant with bank requirements for chip reader technology, reformatting our website to address quickly changing technology, and meeting with a lens expert to discuss maintenance of our light station and contracting with him to clean the lens. Then our Board met in January where more ideas were planted and goals for 2017 were developed, using the mission statement as a guide. These goals are:

- Create an accurate map of Pioneer Cemetery.
- Contract with Chad Kaiser to clean the Fresnel lens.
- Freshen exhibits at the lighthouse.
- Reach out to the community to increase individual memberships, gain possible Corporate sponsorship, attract more young members through schools, and improve accounting of volunteer hours.

Then the seeds sprouted! The Board used their creativity, skills, and expertise to help move the efforts along. While working with the banks, our Treasurer, Al Friedrich, discovered that the chip reader would work better with the full Clover system, which eliminated the need to purchase a new cash register. The Clover team worked long hours to make this a reality, including training development prior to our first volunteer training session on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Nancy Joao spruced up the gift shop while she waited for the new season stock items to arrive. The carpets were cleaned, which involved moving displays and putting them back. Mitch and Becky Owensby refinished the counters. The new stock has arrived, and Nancy and Susan Anderson are working to create displays and ensure the Gift Shop is ready for our big opening day on April 1st.

The gardening team met to prepare for the year and develop plans for literal blooms for the lighthouse grounds.

The website developer is working on our new site with Eric Richstad of our Technology Team. Eric reviewed the initial draft, created job roles, and held training sessions so the team knows how to make updates to the site. There are new and exciting ideas about additions to the website, including a feature that will allow us to receive online donations.

Board members met with the City of Mukilteo to collaborate on a cemetery mapping project, which is growing quickly! Details will be provided soon.

March has seen a full wind of activity with installing, preparing, training, cleaning, gardening, and putting the final touches on our small and mighty lighthouse. She will shine brightly this year, signaling travelers from all over the world and providing a safe place to learn, restore, celebrate, gather, shop, and hope for our community—locally and globally.

The 2017 MHS Board and members are fun, engaged, and hard-working. It is an honor to work alongside them and be part of this transformation into spring and our season.

Joanne Mulloy, President ♦



### MHS Calendar

Saturday, March 18, 1–3 pm, **Volunteer Training**, Light Station.

Saturday, March 25, 10 am, **Annual Cleaning Day**, Light Station.

Saturday, March 25, 9:30 am–4:30 pm, **Lighthouse Grants Workshop**, Hansville Community Center.

Saturday, April 1, Noon, **Opening Day Ceremony**, Light Station.

Thursday, April 13, 7:15 pm, **General Membership Meeting**, Rosehill. ♦

### Special Tours Volunteers Needed

Do you love the lighthouse? Do you like working with children and senior citizens? Do you have a few hours to spare during the week? If so, Special Tours needs you!

We provide tours of the lighthouse and interpretive center during the week on a request basis. Last year, we serviced 550 people outside of the regular week-end visiting hours.

The busiest time for special tours is during the months of May and June, with a few tours held in the summer.

For school tours, the teachers and their own chaperones manage the children, so our volunteers just need to focus on sharing knowledge and love of our lighthouse. Don't worry about training—we'll provide that for you.

To volunteer to help with Special Tours, contact Marianne Anderson or Kris Hoffman.

Marianne: mtnmarianne@hotmail.com  
(425-353-6783)

Kris: fedt66@live.com  
(425-876-3765).



♦

## Summer Day Ferry Ride and the Beach Cabin

By Neil Anderson

I became an MHS member in 2012. My Mukilteo-raised father had passed away and our family had a number of Mukilteo photographs that we wished to donate to the Historical Society. My father was born in 1924 and lived with his parents, a brother, and sister in a house near the intersection of Fourth and Loveland Streets. My mother lived just east of town. Both of my parents attended the old Rosehill School.

Over the past few years, I have been fortunate to work with Ann Collier and other members of MHS. I am also a member of the Everett Museum of History (EMOH). At EMOH, I am fortunate to work with a wonderful group of people who are working on our collection inventory project.

In early 2017, our group had some extra time on our hands. Ann Collier had mentioned that tucked away in the confines of the Lighthouse complex, the City of Mukilteo had a collection of ferry and maritime photos and artifacts. The collection was acquired from a local collector some years ago. Parts of the collection included Mukilteo and some not. Thus, a little data collection and review would sure be nice. Arrangements were made for a little inventory work by EMOH volunteers including Jack O'Donnell, Larry Wold, Dave Ramstad, and Bob Mayer—a good way to get involved and combat winter-time blues.

The project has been fun and interesting. In fact, we came across several photos of the ferry Chetzemoka and a life ring from the old ferryboat. The Chetzemoka was one of the San Francisco Bay Area ferries that was acquired by the Black Ball Line and moved to Puget Sound. It remained in service until 1969 when the boat was retired by the Washington State Ferry system. The Chetzemoka provided service on the Mukilteo-Whidbey run from time to time. Coincidentally, just in case there is some confusion to the readers, a new Chetzemoka ferry was constructed for the ferry system and added to the present day ferry fleet in 2010.



*Ferry Chetzemoka, 1954  
(City of Mukilteo Maritime Collection).*

This all reminded me of an entertaining family story, told over and over by my parents. The year was probably 1955 or 1956. It was summer. I was one or two years old and my mother was going to spend the day at the beach with me along with her good friend, Isabelle Losvar. Isabelle, of course, would bring along her young daughter, Gretchen. Isabelle was married to Albert Losvar of the Mukilteo Boathouse family.

After spending some time on the beach by the boathouse, Mom and Isabelle decided to take Gretchen and me over to Whidbey Island for a picnic lunch on the beach. There was no need for a car, as we walked on the ferry for the ride over to Columbia Beach at Clinton. My mother recalled that this was my first ferryboat ride and the ferry was the Chetzemoka. She noted such milestones in journals and family baby books.



*Clinton/Columbia Beach Ferry Dock, 1957  
(City of Mukilteo Maritime Collection).*

During the visit to Columbia Beach, Isabelle and Mom met a fellow who proposed to sell a small one-room waterfront cabin and lot. The cabin was nothing to write home about. It would keep the rain off your head and you could cook in a small kitchen area. But it was on the beach. The fellow was not asking much at all. The payments would be minimal for a short time. With the small savings Mom and Isabelle had, they felt they could swing the deal, without help from the hubbies, Albert and my father, Bill Anderson. What a great opportunity for two young families. They agreed to the deal, subject to the approval of Albert and Bill.

Now comes the bump in the road. After all, these were the 1950s. The days of Lucy and Ricky, Fred and Ethel, Father Knows Best. I think you all know where I am going. Yes, Albert and Bill nixed the deal. This was

a matter for the men of the family to decide, and why would anyone want to buy this beach cabin way over on Whidbey Island--especially when there was a huge beach at Mukilteo, and the Losvars themselves had a beach and commercial boathouse next to the ferry dock. It didn't matter that the "moms" could work out the deal themselves. It was just not the right decision at that point in time, according to the "dads." Young families and all. Kaput. The deal was dead.

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Marg Klemp Caley served as young actresses. Bevo's uncle, Jack Charters, had gotten a WPA job to produce dramatic productions in Mukilteo, 1935-1937. Bevo's daughter remembers taking dance lessons at the Royal Neighbors Hall years later.

Thelma Weers Kane remembered going to dances there with her parents when she was four or five years old. The acoustics may have worked quite well, but when the children got tired, they would climb onto their parents' coats on the chairs and, in spite of the music, fall fast asleep!

In 1957 the Royal Neighbors Lodge of Mukilteo turned its hall over to the City for use as a community center. And in the early 1960s the Boys and Girls Club started using the facility, on a lease arrangement from the City. The building was placed on the Mukilteo Register of Historic Places.

The Boys and Girls Club has obtained land in Harbour Pointe near the Police Station on which it is planning to build a new building and sports fields. The future of Hawthorne Hall, which will soon be 100 years old, is still to be determined. ♦



## Cemetery Corner

By Margaret Summitt

In the far southwest corner of Mukilteo's Pioneer Cemetery are three plaques memorializing Abbey, Viola, and Stuart Davis.

Abbey and Viola were young daughters of John H. Davis, a pioneer logger and developer of the Snohomish Valley. Abbey died at age 10 on January 16, 1910 of cerebro-spinal meningitis. Viola died at age 11 on March 22, 1912 of tubercular meningitis.

John Davis acquired the timber rights to Hat Island in 1875 after its only resident, Peter Goutrie, was found murdered in his cabin. After Goutrie failed to come to Mukilteo to pick up his mail, Morris Frost crossed over to the island, where he discovered Goutrie's body. It was thought Goutrie was murdered due to rumors that he had hidden money somewhere on the island.

John Davis acquired the Goutrie homestead for \$525 and logged off all the old growth timber on the island. He later acquired the land where Everett's Delta railroad yards now are.

John Davis made and lost a fortune and was sent to the Snohomish County poor farm in Monroe, whence he disappeared in 1919. In 1931 his remains were discovered and identified by a former neighbor from Mukilteo, Max Fairfield, who told the coroner he'd know Davis's pocket watch "in a million." "The singularly peculiar timepiece, found alongside the bones, was etched with an engine, coach, and sailboat." The bones matched Davis's known stature: six feet, two inches and about 200 pounds.

It is not known how Stuart Davis, who died in 1919, is related to the John Davis family. Information is needed on persons named Stuart or Stewart Davis as found in military and census records. MHS needs information tying these persons to residences and/or burial in Mukilteo. If you have any information, please contact MHS. ♦

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The Losvars and Andersons maintained a lifelong friendship. But time marches on and the Losvars eventually moved to Eastern Washington in 1962. The Losvar family Mukilteo Boathouse closed and was replaced by the condo building in the early 1970s. Boeing moved to Everett in the mid-1960s and the Port Gardner Bay area changed forever.

The families continued to get together through the years. We had the best of times together. The little cabin story was always told. As real estate prices soared upwards and beachfront property became pricier and scarce, Isabelle and Mom would tend to "rub in" the boys' decision to nix the deal of the 1950s just a little bit more. All in good natured kidding, but suffice it to say, Dad and Albert would feel the heat. Years later, the boys admitted they blew it, big time. What were they thinking?

As the years passed and the south Whidbey area changed, Mom could not remember the exact location of the cabin. Progress created a new landscape. I can only speculate that the little cabin had been demolished. The lot was likely joined with adjacent lots to construct a newer, larger house. It would have been fun to have a little beach cabin in our families. I am sure we could have easily worked out a schedule. But that is now all water under the bridge or, should I say, water under the ferry dock.

Chalk it up to lessons learned. ♦



*Ferry Chetzemoka life ring from City of Mukilteo Maritime Collection, held by Neil Anderson and Ann Collier.*



## *In Memoriam*

The Mukilteo Historical Society mourns the passing of two long-time members, Bruce Brown and Margaret Bridge.

**Bruce Brown**, who died on February 14, 2017, served as treasurer of MHS for ten years and was especially appreciated for organizing the sales of commemorative tiles for the floors in the Lighthouse and the Interpretive Center. He served not only as treasurer, but also as vice president, so he attended many officer/board meetings through the years, offering good advice with his institutional memory of MHS. Bruce and his wife Lois were active in all phases of work in MHS—Bruce even wrote historical articles for the Beacon, as well as the MHS newsletter.

Bruce served on the Mukilteo City Council and the city's Civil Service Commission and was chosen Mukilteo Citizen of the Year. Lois and the family designated the Mukilteo Historical Society for donations in honor of Bruce. MHS is a better organization through the efforts of Bruce Brown.

**Margaret Bridge**, who died on December 18, 2016, was active for many years with the "A-Team," working in Quarters A documenting the MHS collection. She particularly worked with the books in the collection, having been the librarian at Rosehill School during part of her thirty-year career with the Mukilteo School District. Margaret was also one of the lighthouse gardeners for many years. As a member of the National Society of Daughters of the American Colonists, she was instrumental in the acquisition of the Vancouver plaque in front of the lighthouse. Margaret and her husband Art, who died in 2013, had an adventurous life, which among other things included ownership and adventures with a hot air balloon. Margaret's spirit and enthusiasm are missed. ♦

## **Gift Shop News**

For those who volunteer at the Gift Shop, there is something new on the counter! We have leased the Clover Station Point of Sale System (Clover POS). More than being easy to use, the Clover POS is customized for the Mukilteo Lighthouse Gift Shop.

The Clover POS features a readable 11.6-inch tablet screen, a printer that lists items purchased, and a locking cash drawer. The existing Clover Mini is connected to the Clover Station and will be "customer facing" for ease of viewing and use by our guests. The system accepts all major credit cards and continues to operate when the WiFi is not functioning, which is a plus at the Lighthouse. When the WiFi is back in service, all transactions are loaded to the Cloud.

Training on the Clover POS will be included in the March 11 and March 18 Volunteer Training Sessions at the Mukilteo Lighthouse. Special thanks to the Gift Shop Team (Nancy Joao, Susan Anderson, and Becky Owensby) and Khara Turner (Bank of America—Merchant Services) who participated in the setup, inventory upload, and testing of the Clover POS.

Al Friedrich, Treasurer



Support the Mukilteo Historical Society. Please send in your annual dues now. See back page for membership form. ♦



Join us on Cleaning Day, March 25, to get the Light Station ready for another season. Many hands make light work! ♦



**Mukilteo Historical Society Inc.**  
304 Lincoln Avenue, Suite 101  
Mukilteo, WA 98275

## 2017

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

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Return this form with payment to:

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

Type of Membership:

- ☐ Individual - \$15      ☐ Senior (65+) - \$10      ☐ Senior Couple - \$20      ☐ Family - \$25  
☐ Corporate - \$50      ☐ Sustaining - \$100      ☐ Benefactor - \$300      ☐ Life - \$500  
☐ Donation Only—(Please provide your name and address so we may acknowledge your donation.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Go GREEN! Check here for electronic newsletter only. ☐

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Please indicate the volunteer activities you would like to help with:

- ☐ **Archives/Trunk Treasures**—Collect and archive documents, photos, and artifacts. Organize exhibits. Present Trunk Tales.  
☐ **Garden**—Join our group of gardeners or adopt a specific garden bed at the Light Station.  
☐ **Gift Shop**—Staff the gift shop. Help price, stock, and maintain inventory. Prepare drawer for next shift. Operate credit card processing terminal and cash register.  
☐ **Lighthouse**—Become a lighthouse tour guide.  
☐ **Maintenance**—Liaison to Board about Light Station and Pioneer Cemetery issues and plans.  
☐ **Publicity**—Advertising (Beacon/Herald/etc.). MHS Newsletter, website. Membership mailing (Sunshine)/emails/phoning.  
☐ **Special Tours/Weddings**—Assist with group tours and events.

For Office Use Only:      ☐ Added to Membership Roster      ☐ Added to Address Labels      ☐ Membership Card sent

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