



If Only These Buildings Could Talk...

Note that the following article contains gaps in information about these buildings. If you have any information, please help us fill in the historical record. Contact John or Ann Collier at 425-315-0823 or e-mail them at acollier@mukilteohistorical.org.

It is intriguing to look at some of the oldest buildings in old town Mukilteo and wonder what stories occurred within their walls. To prompt your imagination, we gathered some information about three old structures that have gone through several changes and remain standing today.

From General Store to Mexican Restaurant to an unknown future...



The building that recently housed La Cascada Acapulco restaurant began in 1905 as the Mukilteo Store, owned by N. J. Smith. The nearby Klemp Hotel burned down in 1926. The wooden bridge crosses Brewery Creek. It is not known why the chicken crossed the bridge.

Among those with the longest history is the building at the corner of Second Street and Park Avenue. It was built by a Mr. Baxter for N. J. Smith, who lived with his family on the top floor and opened his N. J. Smith Mukilteo Store on the first floor in 1905.

The other important construction underway in the fall of 1905 was the Mukilteo Lighthouse. Just as the lighthouse was being completed, Japan was winning its war with Russia half a world away. Perhaps surprisingly to some, this event

would have been discussed in the store, along with the construction of the lighthouse, as the town's dominant industry, the Crown Lumber Company, employed many workers from Japan.

In 1924, the building became the Harris Mercantile Company, and two years later the store was run by R. A. Webster and F. A. Gillespie. When the Crown Lumber Company closed in 1930, the manager of its company store, Otto Zahler, moved up the street and into the building.

Mr. Zahler was very active in organizing the town's response to World War II, so one can imagine the discussions about the war that took place with the customers in the store. There were no longer any Japanese living in Mukilteo during the war, but local residents continued to correspond with their friends who had been moved into internment camps.

Fred Allen ran the "Mukilteo Store" from 1945 to 1956, a time of significant growth and the incorporation of Mukilteo as a town (1947). In the 1970s, Mr. and Mrs. Lovely ran the store at that site, and then in the 1980s, the "Bon Vin" establishment came into being there.

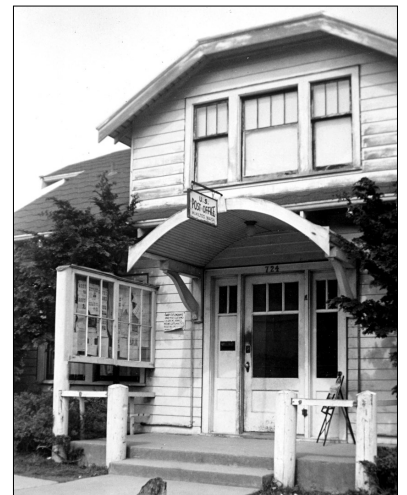
In the late 1980s, Bill and Janet Smith ran the Las Palmas Restaurant and were known for hosting dinners for the homeless at Christmastime. More recently, the building housed La Cascada Acapulco Mexican Restaurant. The restaurant has closed and the building is now for sale.



The current building at Second Street and Park Avenue.

What will be the next life, if any, for the N. J. Smith store?

Post Office to Library to Shops to Offices



Built in 1934, Mukilteo's third post office building was built by Postmaster David Burklund and featured a case in the front that held official documents, including "wanted" posters.

The building at 724 Second Street, next to Arnie's Restaurant, was built in 1934 as Mukilteo's third Post Office. Muk-

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A Message from our President

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." ~John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Thanksgiving is fast approaching. It's that time of year when we overeat, watch too much football, and nap from the turkey's tryptophan. It's also a time when we take a moment to reflect on the blessings in our lives. Gratitude is thankfulness for those blessings.

President Kennedy's quote is as rich in wisdom for us today, as it was when he proclaimed it 53 years ago. JFK was saying much more than just "be grateful." He was saying that *when* you are grateful, do more than just say the words. Live a life of gratefulness. Live in a way that shows others how important thankfulness is to you. Walk out your gratefulness; don't settle for just saying "thanks."

I was struck by this quote because it reminded me of the members of MHS. Every person I have met through the Society lives out their thankfulness through serving others. I guess one could say that about most volunteer organizations, but I think it applies perfectly to us. Whether you are staffing the gift shop, planting flowers, photographing artifacts, backing up the PCs, painting the fence, designing signs, or taking inventory (just to name a few!), you are serving. You are walking out your thankfulness, with a pay-it-forward mindset. Walking the walk; living the life.

When I look back at everything we accomplished this past year, I am thankful for the many people who contributed time, money, and energy to not just maintaining, but expanding our service to the community. I want to especially thank the leadership team of MHS:

- The retiring Board members (Daniel Valerio, Mary Dulin, Lynette Goad, Chris Goad, and Becky Owensby), for their work and dedication.
- The remaining Board members (Joanne Mulloy, Sally Morrison, Margaret Summitt, and Candy Sterling), for their ongoing commitment to serving our Society.
- And the newly-elected Board members (Pat Clark, Al Friedrich, Peter Anderson, Renee Ripley, Eric Richstad, and Alex Bonner), for stepping up to serve in a greater capacity.

Their efforts and devotion inspire me to strive even more to serve.

So take a moment this Thanksgiving, maybe during half-time, maybe between dinner and dessert, or possibly after your nap, to think about how your thankfulness can be demonstrated in tangible ways to serve your community, and then also take a minute to thank those who have quietly and tirelessly cared for your Mukilteo Historical Society.

Thank you. It has been my honor to work alongside you all.

Don Saul, retiring President ♦



Holiday Happenings

Please join us for the annual MHS Holiday Party on Saturday, December 10. Festivities begin at 6 pm in the Christiansen Room at Rosehill Community Center. Bring a dish to share, and celebrate the holiday season with your MHS friends. ♦



MHS Calendar

Saturday, December 3, 12 pm to 3 pm.
Santa at the Lighthouse, Gift Shop open. Light Station.

Saturday, December 10, 6 pm, **Holiday Potluck**, Rosehill.

Wednesday, December 14, 9 am, **Inventory**, Gift Shop. ♦

Update on LEP Grant



The Mukilteo Historical Society received a 2016 Lighthouse Environmental Programs (LEP) grant to replace broken window panes and a rotten window sash at the Light Station.

The window panes have been replaced, and the window sash replacement is in process.

Thank you to everyone who purchased a Washington lighthouse license plate! A portion of the license plate fees helps support projects at select Washington lighthouses. This support is greatly appreciated and allows maintenance dollars to go even further.

Please consider renewing or purchasing a Washington lighthouse license plate. For more information, go to <http://washingtonlighthouses.org/lighthouse-license-plates>. ♦



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ilteo's postmaster, David Burklund, was required to provide the building and all the needed equipment, such as post office boxes.

The building remained Mukilteo's Post Office until a new building was built at the corner of Third and Loveland in 1962. (That small building was later acquired by the Presbyterian Church and used as a food bank until the church sold the entire property in 2004.)

The former post office on Second Street became the Mukilteo Library in 1963, with Randall Bump Giersch serving as librarian. Prior to this, the city was served by a book mobile. Lois Livingston also served as librarian in this building, and she supervised the library's move to larger quarters in the Rosehill Community Center, formerly Rosehill School, in 1978.



One of the more recent uses of the post office building on Second Street was Vivian's Gallery of Fine Art and Gifts, opened by Vivian Egerstrom in 1993.

In more recent times, several shops have operated in the building, including The Perfect Touch, Jabberwocky, Bay View Gallery, and Vivian's.

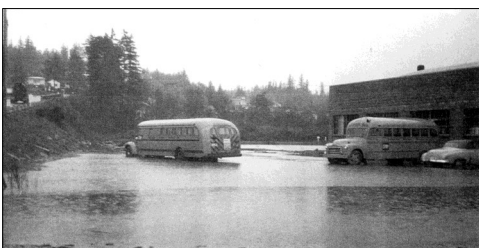
Presently, the building has returned to the national and even international dimension that it had when it was a post office. It now houses the headquarters of an alumni organization for an international school in Mussoorie, India. As in other cases, the building has offices on the first floor and living quarters above.

Bus Barn to Tavern to Brewery



The structure that now houses Diamond Knot Brewery began in the 1940s as the headquarters of the Everett-Mukilteo Stage Company. All the other buildings along the water have been replaced by the Losvar Condominium and ferry terminal.

Mukilteo's Bus Barn on Front Street across from the ferry was built in 1946 for Russell Edgerton's Mukilteo-Everett Stage Company. In those days, mass transit storage next to the ferry was not a zoning challenge, although even then people complained about the growing congestion in the area.



What an evocative photo of three vehicles at the "bus barn" during a high tide in 1951! Fill dirt was trucked in by Washington State in the 1950s and more was done during the creation of Lighthouse Park to mitigate flooding during high tides today.

School buses were stored there until 1965, although the Edgertons retired and sold the property in 1963. An establishment called Neptune's occupied the building during the 1970s, as may be seen from an old sign uncovered during recent remodeling.

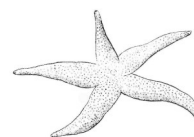
Marge Phillips bought the building in 1987, named her establishment "Cheers Too!," and "turned it into a spot with the ambiance of an old-time country grange hall," according to one newspaper report. No, the television series was not filmed there, but the name may be connected because "Cheers" was peaking in popularity at the time!



Diamond Knot Brewery today.

The Diamond Knot Brewery and Alehouse opened in 1999 and it has recently expanded into and renovated the adjacent space previously occupied by Woody's store. As has always been the case, more change is coming as part of an extensive plan to modernize Mukilteo's waterfront.

New buildings will arise and old ones will go, and the refrain will continue: if only the buildings could talk! ♦



Congratulations to 2017 MHS Leaders

Officers

President—Joanne Mulloy

1st Vice President—Sally Morrison

2nd Vice President—Pat Clark

Secretary—Margaret Summitt

Treasurer—Al Friedrich

Directors

Peter Anderson

Renee Ripley

Eric Richstad

Alex Bonner

Candy Sterling

Thank You!

To all our wonderful volunteers—THANK YOU for everything you do to support the Mukilteo Historical Society! We couldn't do it without you! ♦

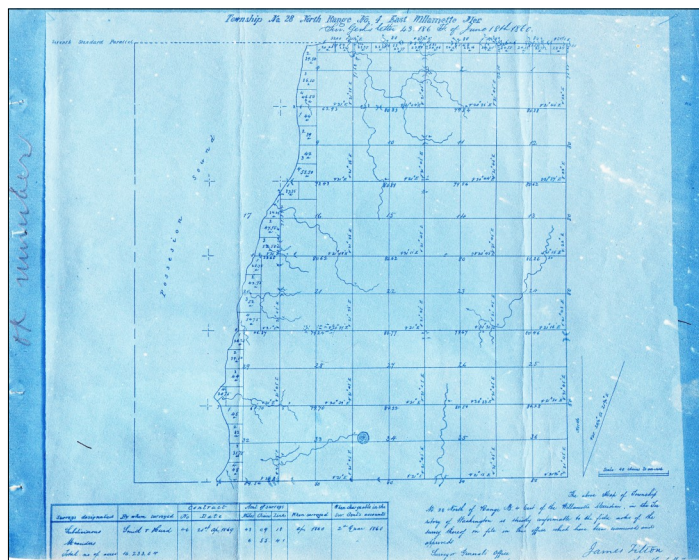
Historical Gems Found in Abstract of Title

By Margaret Summitt

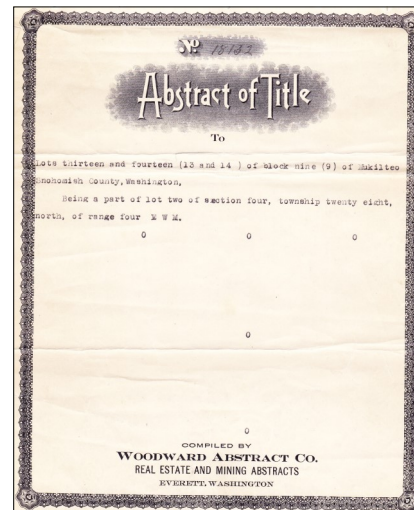
Dig deeply enough into the history of any piece of property in old Mukilteo and fascinating glimpses of history shine through. Recently a property owner contacted MHS with an intriguing Abstract of Title spanning the area's first sixty years, from 1860 to 1920, the latest date in the file.

An Abstract of Title is a collection of legal documents that, taken together, reveals the "genealogy" of a property. In this case, it starts with a copy of a map drawn in 1860 of what was to become Mukilteo, and with a copy of the patent received by Morris Frost in 1869. Affidavits from old-timers establish that Frost was in Seattle in 1854 and that he left no heirs. The collection also includes leases and sub-leases of waterfront lots pertaining to Frost's business ventures with Jacob Fowler.

As the property in question is located near the Pioneer Cemetery, we learn much about the activities of Louis K. Church (namesake of Church Avenue) and his heirs, and share the frustration that Church never had the land dedicated as a cemetery nor had its boundaries legally drawn—a headache that the City of Mukilteo dealt with a century later when



Plat map of Mukilteo from 1860.



Cover page from Abstract of Title.

it had to determine whether the city or the county owned the cemetery property.

Along the way, the documents name historical figures like President U. S. Grant and local pioneers David DeSelle, Alexander Spithill, Angus Macintosh, and Harvey Loveland, namesake of Loveland Avenue.

In theory, the owner of any given property in Old Town Mukilteo should have a copy of its Abstract of Title. Documents recorded before 1984 are available on microfilm at the county auditor's office. But copies of these old documents tend to disappear from their owners' possession and they can be difficult to track down.

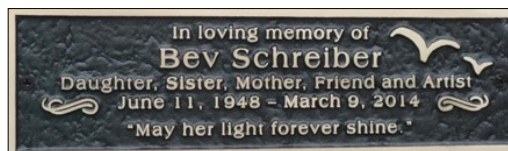
The property owner who shared this file with MHS was intrigued by its contents and wanted to know if it was significant. We appreciate that she reached out to us, and we encourage similarly intrigued persons to share pieces of history. ♦



Bev Schreiber Memorial Bench installed at Rosehill.

Bev Schreiber Memorial Bench

Thanks to the efforts of "The Friends of Bev" with assistance from MHS, a memorial bench in Bev Schreiber's honor now exists in Mukilteo. The bench is located at Rosehill on the plaza area north of the building. The city recently installed a memorial plaque on the bench, designed by "The Friends of Bev."



Plaque remembering Bev installed on the bench.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen. ♦

Gift Shop News

With the gift shop closed for the regular season, your buyers are still busy working behind the scenes. We are sorting the existing inventory and taking markdowns to make room for new items in 2017. We are reviewing catalogs as they arrive and putting together orders of what we hope will be many new and exciting items for the new year.



Potter's mug



Bean Pot mug



Camp mug

One hot item this past year was the Potter's mug. It sold out in April and we could not restock it because the supplier was also out of stock. The supplier now has the Potter's mug back in stock as well as two new styles. We have ordered all three styles for next year.

Items we are struggling to find are nylon windbreakers, and fleece jackets and vests. The price from the supplier that we have used for years may be exceptional, but their quality has continued to decrease each year. Due to problems we had with them not owning up to defects as well as major color variations between sizes, we have decided we can no longer carry their products. As of now, all other suppliers we have contacted charge nearly twice as much for their products, but we will keep searching. Maybe we will find a new supplier at the Gift Show!

The annual Seattle Gift Show is the first week in January 2017—earlier in the month than in previous years. This has shortened the time to make our purchasing decisions, so we are moving our annual gift shop inventory date to December 14th, starting at 9 am. Volunteers are needed to help inventory our current stock on hand. If you are available to help on Wednesday, December 14, please come by. This process usually takes less than three hours to complete. The top qualifications required are being able to count and have fun doing it.

The Board has approved opening the gift shop on Saturday, December 3rd, noon to 3 pm. Stop by for that special gift for friends and family. Check out the new markdowns while you are there also!

Lastly, thank you to all our volunteers. You make our job so rewarding. See you on December 3rd or at volunteer training in the spring.

Your buyers,
Kim Nguyen and Nancy Joao ♦

Condolences

MHS extends its condolences to the family of Warren Cronkhite, husband of Mukilteo's 2015 Pioneer of the Year, Lillian Anderson Cronkhite. Lillian was raised in Mukilteo and she met "Cronk" when she attended Everett High School. After they were married in 1946, Cronk was employed for many years in Everett as a dentist. Many MHS members will recall his enjoyment and wit at the meeting where Lillian recounted her youth in Mukilteo and some of the happy events from their nearly seventy years of marriage. Cronk died on September 15, 2016. ♦



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

2016

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Becky Owensby
Lynette Stefansson-Goad
Candy Sterling

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Newsletter

Mary Dulin – Editor

MHS Website

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. ☐

Mailing address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Street address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____ E-mail _____

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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