



Dan Hammer is 2019 Pioneer of the Year

By Ann and John Collier

This year's Pioneer of the Year, Dan Hammer, has family roots in Mukilteo that go back 113 years! Dan will be honored at the MHS meeting on Thursday, August 8, at 7:00 pm at the Rosehill Community Center. Plan now to join Dan as he brings to life stories about growing up in Mukilteo, serving in the Coast Guard, and then serving Mukilteo at the Water Board for 43 years. As you continue reading this article, think of questions you might have for Dan.

Dan's great grandparents, Floyd and Minnie Haynes, moved from Michigan to Whatcom County in 1904, and then in 1906 they settled in Mukilteo, as the new lighthouse was being completed. Their first home in Mukilteo was on Park Avenue close to Front Street and the old Dutcher Apartments. Later they lived near Pioneer Cemetery, in a home with a spacious garden and family orchard. They had five children, and one wonders if the kids found it scary to live so close to a graveyard.



Dan's grandmother, Hazel Haynes, born in Michigan, moved to Mukilteo in 1906.

Dan's grandmother, Hazel Haynes, was actually born back in Michigan in 1901, but then at the age of five she came with her family to Mukilteo. She attended Rosehill School (the original building with the onion dome on top) and then went on to Everett High School.

In 1920, Hazel married Frank Saponaro, who had been born in Italy in 1894 and immigrated to New York in 1913. Along with many other immigrants, Frank served in the armed

forces in WWI. Eventually he made his way to Mukilteo where he met Hazel while he worked for the Crown Lumber Company.

Frank and Hazel lived with their three children in a house on the Speedway. They are no longer with us, but the house still is! It was moved on wheels by the Saponaro family up to 7th and Washington, where it now serves (much-remodeled) as the

home of Fred and Jennifer Baxter.

The youngest of the three Saponaro children was Jane, who was born in 1925. Jane attended Rosehill (the second Rosehill school building) and then Everett High. Jane married Ray Hammer, whose family had originally migrated from Norway to America.

Ray was raised in the Wood-inville/Bothell area, served in the Merchant Marine in WWII, and then worked at the Tank Farm in Mukilteo. Jane and Ray and their two children, Dan and Janice, lived with Hazel Saponaro in the house at 7th and Washington. Then in the late 1950s, Ray built a house for his family at Tenth and Loveland. Dan has many memories of that home and his walks from it down the trail to Fifth Street.



Jane and Ray Hammer with their son Dan, age 11 months.

Dan Hammer was born in 1947, an early addition to the postwar baby boom. He went to Fairmount Elementary for kindergarten, then Rosehill Elementary, Olympic View Junior High, and Cascade High School, graduating in 1966. Dan served in the Coast Guard, 1966–1970, much of the time on the Staten Island, a Seattle-based ice-breaker that operated in Antarctica and twice in the Arctic. He also served on lifeboat stations at Charleston, OR (Coos Bay) and Winchester Bay, OR (near Reedsport).

Following his Coast Guard service, Dan married his high school classmate, Mary Ann Kingsolver, in October, 1970. But they had not been high school sweethearts, because they only really met when sitting together at their graduation ceremony! Both were grateful that Dan's Coast Guard service was based in Seattle, near enough for their romance to grow and blossom over the next four years.

Dan worked for the Mukilteo Water and Wastewater District for 43 years, retiring in 2013 as Water District Manager. When

Continued on page 3...

A Message from our President

I recently traveled to Greece, and although there are many lighthouses there, I did not see one. They are mostly closed to the public. I did bring home a tapestry of a lighthouse and rowboat that does not represent any Greek lighthouse but reminds me of the universal fascination with these historical symbols of peacefulness.

Since there are over 1000 islands in Greece, there are many ferries, although they are much faster-paced than here. A very quick turnaround time means running on and off with all of one's luggage. If passengers aren't fast enough, there is "help" which resulted in minor injuries for the group. The luggage is stored in the lower deck of the boat and then passengers move up the stairs while the boat is still leaving the port. Balance was important. Most ferry rides were 2-3 hours long between islands with several classes of seating, similar to seats on an airplane. It was fun, and yet I still appreciate our less frantic ferry schedules, even during vacation season. Our ferries feel like a charming community member.

July is a great month to be a part of Mukilteo Historical Society. There are so many opportunities to show off our community's iconic lighthouse to an international community of visitors. The volunteer staff work together within their teams as docents in the lighthouse or staff in the gift shop. When the lighthouse is closed, there are lovely weddings, both large and small, as families celebrate their unions. Seniors, children, and families visit for special tours with educational discussions. The archive team continues their seemingly endless work of cataloging photos and objects. The gardens have been planted by MHS members, and the City of Mukilteo staff prepares the grounds for the upcoming Lighthouse Festival. A lot of ice cream is consumed by international and local visitors. Visitors either prefer the soft serve at Ivar's or the hand-packed ice cream at Diamond Knot.

It all looks easy in July, although much work has gone into preparations. The volunteers have set aside time from their schedules for their shifts. The Board has made decisions and designated funds to support lighthouse restoration, training, and gift shop inventory. Members are conscientious about performing assigned tasks and devising creative solutions and improvements. Volunteers fill in for others. The Board and Advisory Board are all busy with projects to further the success of the organization.

New members continue to join and then expand their roles to take on new work. As an example, Tina Saunders recently took over as Membership Chair from Peter Anderson. You will now see her staffing the welcome table at our general meetings. Board Member Peter Anderson had taken on this role when our previous chair moved out of state, and Sue Anderson greeted new members. Peter developed new processes as we boosted membership and began tracking statistics. Thank you, Tina, Sue, and Peter!

MHS is a wonderful team of individuals who create something much greater together. I'm proud to work with such smart, capable, and generous people who enrich my life.

Here's to enjoying the beauty and peace of our community during this perfect time of year!

Joanne Mulloy, President ♦



New MHS Scholarship Announced

The MHS Board recently voted to initiate an annual scholarship award. Beginning in 2020, at least \$500 will be awarded to the winner of an essay contest. The contest will be open to any high school senior in the Mukilteo School District. Children and grandchildren of anyone who lives in the MSD who are high school seniors will also be eligible. The essays must be about an event in Mukilteo, a building in Mukilteo, or about a person who lived in the Mukilteo area at some time.

An MHS committee is being formed to organize publicity for the contest. The committee will also be responsible for establishing the contest rules and to recruit a five-person Jury who will select the winning essay. Although some groundwork has been laid, there is still much to do. If you would like to be on the Organizing Committee (or know someone who would), please send an email to Eric Richstad at erichstad@mukilteohistorical.org with your name and how you would like to be contacted.



Continued from page 1...

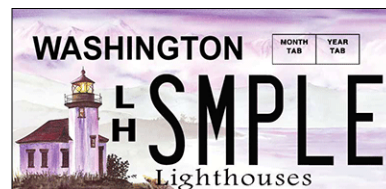
they were first married, Dan and Mary Ann lived in a townhouse off 80th Street. In 1974 they moved to their home on Goat Trail Road, where they still live. They have two sons, Morgan, born in 1976 and now living in Lynnwood, and Corbin, born in 1978 and now living in Everett. Dan and Mary Ann have four grandchildren.

These days Dan enjoys time with family, camping, fishing, gardening—and not having to explain why water bills have gone up! The Mukilteo Historical Society is pleased to celebrate Dan and his 113 years of family history in Mukilteo. It is especially fitting to note that one of the founding members of the Mukilteo Historical Society was Dan's grandmother, Hazel Haynes Saponaro.



Dan Hammer married Mary Ann Kingsolver, October 1970.

Keep Washington Shining!



You can help save 12 Washington lighthouses. When you purchase a Washington Lighthouse license plate, a portion of the fees helps fund restoration projects at 12 non-profit lighthouses, including the Mukilteo lighthouse.

For details, go to:

<http://washingtonlighthouses.org/>

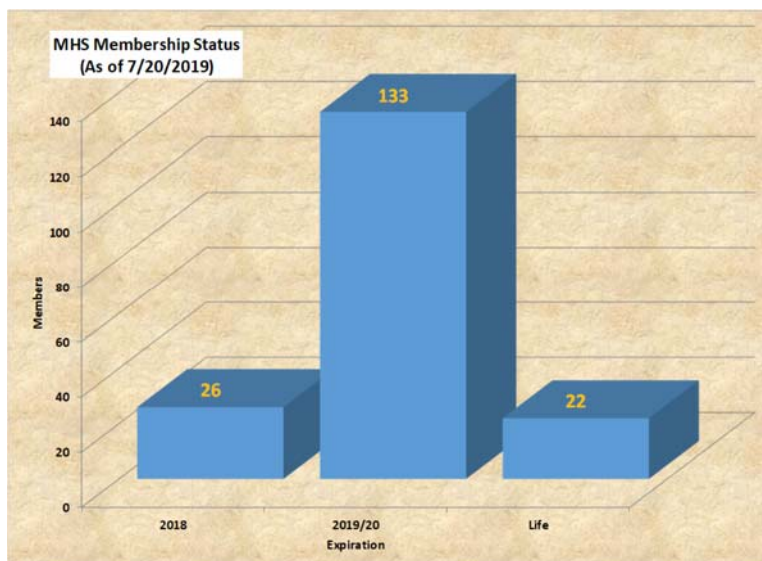


Membership Corner

We are delighted to welcome the following members who joined MHS since our last Newsletter:

Alissa Anderson
Carolyn "Dodie" Carlson
Bill and Dorothy Duff
Arnie and Janet Hammerman
Kris Hoffman
Joe Iozzi

The chart below shows the overall status of our 2019 membership campaign. We currently have a total of 155 active members. A membership application is included with this newsletter for anyone wishing to join for the first time or to renew their expired membership. We are having another great year of fun activities in 2019!





Cemetery Corner

By Margaret Summitt

Tokumatsu Shirai was a Japanese laborer at the Crown Lumber mill in Mukilteo. His grave in the Pioneer Cemetery gives his date of death as April 10, 1908; however, his death certificate reads April 30.

Shirai was killed instantly when a log rolled over his entire body. Like Goro Wadatani, another Japanese buried in the Pioneer Cemetery, Mr. Shirai was born in Wakayama Prefecture, which is located on the Kii Peninsula in the Kansai region of the Japanese main island of Honshu, southeast of Osaka City. When he died, he was about 30 years old.

He had traveled from Japan to Honolulu on the ship “Gaelic,” of the O. and O. Line, on 10 April 1904. This Tokumatsu Shirai of the passenger list is the closest I have found to the laborer of Mukilteo. Somehow he made his way to Seattle, whether across the U.S.-Canada border near Vancouver, or as a direct passenger. So far I have not found his name on passenger lists or border crossings.

The Canada border crossing lists include the names of other Japanese laborers, not buried in the Pioneer Cemetery or found in U.S. Censuses, who stated their destination as Mukilteo. MHS has information on some of them; together, censuses, passenger lists, and immigration lists could be used to compile a census of Mukilteo’s Japanese residents from about 1900 to 1940, which would be of great value to researchers. ♦

The Mail Train Derailment of 1948

By Neil Anderson

For four successive nights in February, 1948, the Pacific Northwest experienced heavy rains and winds that caused widespread damage. The passenger ferry, the “Island Flyer,” sank at Douglas Bay in Howe Sound, B.C. A falling tree claimed the life of a young girl in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. Vancouver, B.C. experienced wind speeds of 60 mph. An avalanche demolished 8 homes and claimed the lives of two people at Ross Lake in the north Cascades. Then, on the morning of February 18, 1948, the storm nearly claimed the lives of the passengers and crew of a Great Northern Railway mail train 2 miles south of Mukilteo.

The Everett Daily Herald newspaper gave a front-page detailed account of the event. Just before 5:30 am that morning, tons of earth slid down the 100-foot-high rain-soaked hillside above the tracks. The slide buried the double tracks to a depth of nearly 15 feet for a length of 90 feet. A Great Northern Railway track inspector traveled this section of track about 4:50 am and all was well. But shortly after the inspection, the hillside gave way. The mail train, traveling south to Seattle, passed through Mukilteo and minutes later slammed into the slide. The mountain of mud, dirt, and trees on the tracks won.

The locomotive continued for 100 feet off the tracks before heading over the seawall and into Puget Sound, landing on its side. One baggage car came to a stop hanging over the wall. The other train cars, including a lone passenger coach, derailed but remained upright. The passenger coach carried eight passengers—five men, a woman, and two children, who were not injured. The engineer, from Everett, and the fireman, from Seattle, were the only ones to suffer injuries. The fireman lost his thumb in the accident and both crew members suffered from shock and exposure. The train conductor and brakeman also survived the accident.

The injured crewmen and passengers were brought back to Everett by a freight train that had been following the mail train. Two section gangs, one from Mukilteo and one from Edmonds, arrived at 8 am to begin clearing the tracks. The Great Northern passenger train, the “Empire Builder,” traveling westbound with 122 passengers, was stopped at Snohomish and the passengers were transported to Seattle by bus. The Empire Builder continued its journey to Seattle over the Northern Pacific Railroad line via Woodinville.



Mail train derailment near Mukilteo on February 18, 1948.

The mail train derailment was big news and the talk of the town in Mukilteo for several days. My parents clearly remembered the incident. They even saved that edition of the Everett Daily Herald with the front page headline.

News source and photos: the Everett Daily Herald. ♦

August 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 12-5pm LH open
4 12-5pm LH open	5	6	7	8 7 pm-MHS General meeting	9	10 12-5pm LH open
11 12-5pm LH open	12	13	14	15	16	17 12-5pm LH open
18 12-5pm LH open	19	20	21	22 6:30 pm- MHS Board meeting	23	24 12-5pm LH open
25 12-5pm LH open	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 12-5pm LH open
8 12-5pm LH open	9	10	11	12 7 pm-MHS General meeting	13	14 12-5pm LH open
15 12-5pm LH open	16	17	18	19	20	21 12-5pm LH open
22 12-5pm LH open	23	24	25	26 6:30 pm- MHS Board meeting	27	28 12-5pm LH open
29 12-5pm LH open	30					



MUKILTEO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Keepers of the Mukilteo Light Station

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please review the membership categories below carefully. As a member you will receive a membership card, quarterly newsletter and a 10% discount in the gift shop. Your donation is tax deductible.

Membership runs from January 1st to December 31st. Return this form and your payment to:

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

MEMBERSHIP TYPE:

- ☐ INDIVIDUAL - \$15
 ☐ SENIOR (65 OR OVER) - \$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

APPLICANT #1 DATA*:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail _____

☐ Help us GO GREEN! Check this box to opt-in for paperless-only newsletters

APPLICANT #2 DATA*:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail _____

☐ Help us GO GREEN! Check this box to opt-in for paperless-only newsletters.

Applicant*

Please check the volunteer opportunities each applicant would like to help with:	#1	#2
Archives/Trunk Treasures – Collect & archive all documents, photos, and artifacts relating to the history of Mukilteo. Organize exhibits. Present Trunk tales throughout the community.		
Garden – Join our group of gardeners or adopt a specific garden bed at the light station.		
Gift Shop – Help to price, stock, and maintain inventory. Operate credit card processing terminal and cash register.		
Lighthouse – Become a lighthouse tour guide.		
Maintenance – Liaison to Board about Light Station/Pioneer Cemetery issues and plans.		
Publicity – Advertising (Beacon/Herald/etc.). MHS Newsletter, Membership mailing (Sunshine)/emails/phoning.		
Special Tours – Assist with docent tours, field trips, and visiting groups.		
Technology – Website, internet, social media.		
Weddings – Welcome guests & provide tours for wedding guests.		

**Please use a second application form for more than two applicants in family memberships.*

For office use only: Date Received _____ ☐ Added to Membership Roster ☐ Membership Card Sent

Gift Shop News

We are now in the 2nd half of our Lighthouse Season. As the good weather (hopefully) continues, we expect to see more visitors from many different places around the world. Be sure to chat with them—that's one of the fun parts of volunteering!

As an FYI, some items needed to be reordered after opening day in April. We were fortunate that the suppliers of postcards, note cards, maps, and matted prints were able to ship additional items to the gift shop with a quick turnaround time.

Some of our best-selling items continue to be coffee mugs, marble turtles, abalone jewelry, glass minis, kitchen towels, and the brass and driftwood wind chimes. Sometimes when an item is ordered, it is out of stock from the vendor and unfortunately cannot be shipped as a back order. This was the case with the popular children's beach buckets filled with shovels, sifters, and rakes.



The Mukilteo Lighthouse appears on this limited edition cardigan sweatshirt.

The lighthouse cardigan sweatshirt pictured above was a special item that we ordered this year. The Mukilteo lighthouse is on the right side of the photo, half-way down, next to the buttons. This is the last year these cardigans will be available as production has been discontinued. We have a limited supply in size large/extra large. These are fun to wear and make great gifts.

I would appreciate suggestions on items that you would like us to carry in the gift shop. You can contact me directly. There is also a sheet at the counter for your comments and recommendations. Gift shop volunteers, please document items on this list that our customers request. Suggestions are always welcome. We will do our best to assess the requests and order new items that we think will sell.

This year has seen some split-shift volunteering at the gift shop. As volunteers, we have other commitments that sometimes fall on the day of our shift, so splitting the shift with another volunteer has been successful. A big thank you to the volunteers who are on the "on call" list and are able to fill in when needed.

Sue Anderson ♦



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

2019 Directors

Peter Anderson
Eric Richstad
Craig Fisher
Mark Sutherland
Sharon Sutherland

Officers

President

Joanne Mulloy

Vice President

Sally Morrison

Secretary

Margaret Summitt

Treasurer

Al Friedrich

Advisory Board

Ann Collier
John Collier
Becky Owensby
Mitch Owensby
Lisa Romo-Bremerthon

Gift Shop

Sue Anderson

Weddings

Sharon Sutherland

Special Tours

Kris Hoffman
Marianne Anderson

Membership

Tina Saunders

Newsletter

Mary Dulin – Editor

MHS Website

www.mukilteohistorical.org

Phone

Voice mail (425) 513-9602

CORRECTION

In the last issue of *MHS Newsline*, the "Protecting the Brass" article mentioned that the brass posts in the lighthouse were recently wrapped. Nylon rope was used to wrap the brass. A different material was indicated in the original article. Thanks to the wrapper, Michael Kyte, for correcting that! ♦



2019 SPONSOR HONOR ROLL

The Mukilteo Historical Society (Keepers of the Mukilteo Light Station) thanks the following corporate sponsors who help support its mission to preserve and exhibit items of historic value that pertain to the City of Mukilteo and its environs.

BENEFACTORS*

Heritage Bank

SUSTAINING SPONSORS*

University Mechanical Contractors

BASIC SPONSORS*

Robin Boyer

Sno-Isle Libraries - Mukilteo Library

*Basic Sponsors make an annual contribution of at least \$50; Sustaining Sponsors \$100; Benefactors \$300.

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