

# MHS Newsline

## CELEBRATING MUKILTEO BOULEVARD

By PETER ANDERSON



*Building the Pigeon Creek Bridge, photo courtesy Everett Public Library*

August 5, 1914 was a very festive day for Mukilteo. That was the day the road connecting Mukilteo and Everett officially opened with a grand celebration. It had been a long time coming as early ideas for such a road had suffered many delays due to politics and geography. In 1861, early Mukilteo settlers were proud to have their town named as a Snohomish County seat only to have that title taken away a year later by the town of Cadyville (which became the City of Snohomish). Competition for road construction priority and funding became political. Appropriations to start road construction were not made until the early 1900s.

Constructing the road faced difficult geographic challenges. The road had to traverse seven steep gullies that required building several bridges. In 1913, construction of the first section of the road

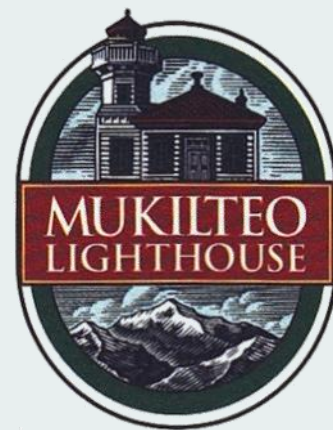
paused at Pigeon Creek while a huge bridge was built over the gulch. The wooden bridges had narrow dirt roadway surfaces leading to and from them. Until World War I, county roads remained largely unpaved, with muddy ruts in the wet months and dusty tracks when dry.

Completion of the Mukilteo-Everett road in 1914 called for a big celebration. In Mukilteo, that traditionally meant a clambake and associated activities. For the grand opening day, four thousand pounds of clams as well as bushels of potatoes and green corn were prepared by Mukilteo longshoremen. Lighthouse Keeper Peter N. Christiansen gave tours of the lighthouse, explaining the workings of the kerosene engines that operated the foghorn.



*This boat took Mukilteo students to Everett High School before the road was completed, MHS Photo*

*Continued on page 4...*



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# MUKILTEO HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

304 LINCOLN AVENUE, STE. 101  
MUKILTEO, WA 98275

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### MHS Website

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

### Phone

Voice mail (425) 513-9602

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



In this uncertain and awkward time, I remind myself to focus on what I can control and let go of what I cannot influence. I miss my summer routine with the flurry of MHS activities. I miss MHS members, our membership meetings, working shifts at the lighthouse and gift shop and visiting with other volunteers. I have seen volunteers out on walks, and I am grateful they identify themselves since I don't recognize them with their masks. COVID-19 and the quarantine restrictions

tive. For instance, the mass planting was cancelled so a few geraniums and impatiens were purchased and planted. The flower beds are being weeded gradually. Ann Collier, Sally Morrison and I are meeting twice a week, dependent on weather, to assess and clean out flower beds. This has also saved money, which is important in this time of unknowns. Maybe this will be our approach next year, too?

August is Pioneer of the Year month and it has been cancelled for 2020. City events have been cancelled.

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*"With events being cancelled this year, it's been an opportunity to look at processes, events and expenses with a fresh perspective."*

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are taking much longer than I anticipated and it requires my patience. I am curious how this will end so I looked up the 1918 pandemic which ended when the virus evolved and weakened. I look forward to getting back to "normal" although that may not look the same as before. This is an opportunity to find creative solutions and to slow down and rest. I compare it to falling off a treadmill and then realizing that it's more comfortable on the floor.

In spite of things being shut down, there are still many activities going on this year. The MHS Board continues to meet monthly via zoom meetings. A sub team, including Peter Anderson, Al Friedrich, Sharon Sutherland and I, drafted a re-opening plan. With Snohomish County still in Phase 2, we cannot move forward on it. Discussions have been held with the City of Mukilteo and two weddings scheduled for July were cancelled to ensure there was no conflict with the Governor's mandate. No plans have been made to open the lighthouse and gift shop yet this year. An outdoor garden sale is planned for Labor Day weekend. Zoom monthly general meetings will begin on August 13th, and have taken more planning than anticipated. The Board continues to make decisions to ensure the safety of our volunteers and visitors.

With events being cancelled this year, it's been an opportunity to look at processes, events and expenses with a fresh perspec-

I'm working with Sue Anderson "down cellar" in Quarters B, organizing and cleaning. This will allow us to get items off the floor and make it easier to find things when we open again. Mitch and Becky Owensby will help as we get farther along. Al and Pat Friedrich are organizing the replica collection. Peter and the Archive Team are having fun with new scanning capability. Mark and Sharon Sutherland worked long hours to prep windowsills prior to the new shutter installation. Sharon's vision was realized and the natural light is remarkable. Al Friedrich is focused on our financial health, reviewing expenses and updating our insurance coverage needs. Changes will be made in Quarters B to allow for one way access to the Gift Shop and exhibits in preparation for opening in the future.

I hope you are well and are enjoying your summer. I look forward to hearing you on the zoom call.

~JOANNE MULLOY



## MEMBERS WHO KEEP MHS GOING DURING THE PANDEMIC...



**Kris Hoffman** was raised in Bremerton, WA and came to Mukilteo in 1973, teaching in the Mukilteo School District

at Lake Stickney, Serene Lake, Mukilteo Elementary, and then opening the brand new Columbia Elementary as a teacher in the third grade. She and Marianne Anderson are in charge of special tours for MHS, and Kris says it is especially fun when field trips bring teachers and parents who used to be her students. Kris now lives in a newly built house on Whidbey Island, but plans to take the ferry to continue with special tours when the lighthouse can open again. Did you know? Kris played the accordion—she still has it, but hasn't played for a long time.



**Marianne Anderson** grew up in Everett and went to Cascade High, but her husband Bob grew up in Mukilteo. In 2005 they moved to a house in Old

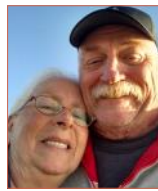
Town that was a 1920 Sears Roebuck house—they renovated the house and added a tower reminiscent of the lighthouse. Marianne taught at Mukilteo Elementary and opened the brand new Columbia Elementary school with Kris Hoffman. Marianne and Kris keep coming up with ideas for expanding tours, especially for school groups. Did you know? Marianne likes to attend vintage rock concerts and travelled to York, England to hear Ian Anderson of the rock band, Jethro Tull.



**John Murray** was born and raised in Cleveland OH, and has lived in Florida, New

Jersey, and Arizona; he and his wife retired to Mukilteo in 2011. John is a history buff and works with Pat Friedrich in the MHS Archives, entering photo data into the Past Perfect program for the past three years. Did you know? John was an Army helicopter pilot in Vietnam.

Did you know?  
August 7th is  
National  
Lighthouse Day!



**Becky & Mitch Owensby** grew up in California and came to Washington in 1979 after their parents moved up here. They have lived in their current house on the edge of Mukilteo for 32 years. For the last 12 years, they have served MHS in many capacities: Becky was secretary and worked on scheduling for many years; they were members of the MHS

board; Mitch has looked after lighthouse maintenance; and together they even volunteered their home address to receive packages for MHS which they then delivered to Quarters B. Did you know? Becky's grandfather was a lighthouse keeper at five different lighthouses in California. Mitch has coached baseball and softball for both boys and girls.



**Gary Bastin** was born in Kentucky, where he loved looking for arrowheads and civil war relics. He was an instructor of medical technology for the Air Force in Texas and came with his wife, Ann, to Mukilteo in 1986. He has worked at various firms in the area in ceramics and chemicals. Gary has helped with gardening at the lighthouse, but may be even more appreciated for his renowned bourbon balls at the MHS Christmas party. Did you know? Gary is a great shooter with a shotgun and competed nationally at the Grand American Trapshoot in Vandalia, OH. Gary is also very interested in araneology—the study of spiders.



**Dan Germano** has been working at Quarters A in the Archives and was instrumental in getting a copy stand and related equipment for photographing large objects in the collection. Dan was raised in the San Francisco area and worked for the Navy as a contractor, doing film and video work. He came to the Mukilteo area in 2012 in semi-retirement and has two kids in college. Did you know? Dan has been playing drums since he was seven years old—he is not presently in a band, but keeps playing his drums.



**Tina & Bill Dickson** also work at entering data about MHS photos. Tina's family moved to Mukilteo in 1958 when Tina was

in ninth grade, so she attended Olympic View Junior High before going to Everett High. That is where she met Bill, who was raised in Everett. Bill and Tina live in the same house her family moved into long ago. Did you know? Bill started as a Mukilteo Volunteer Firefighter in 1977 and Tina joined two years later, as the first woman in the Mukilteo Volunteer Fire department. They retired as firefighters in 2001.



*Continued from the front cover...*

He allowed visitors to climb the winding stairs in the lighthouse tower to see the large revolving light apparatus.

Opening day brought visitors from near and far. A cavalcade of 55 autos carried Everett and Snohomish County residents to the Mukilteo waterfront. Hundreds more arrived by boat or on special runs by the Great Northern Railway. They were met by Mukilteo pioneers Alexander Spithill and Louisa Fowler Sinclair, and acclaimed Snohomish County historian William Whitfield. Local politicians gave speeches and passed out campaign materials, no doubt claiming some credit for the completion of the road.

The winding nature of the road through thick forest led early travelers to refer to it as a boulevard. That name soon stuck and it began to appear on maps from the 1920's as "Mukilteo Boulevard". Land along the route that was close to the shoreline was cleared for homesites and advertised as "view properties". Public works projects during the Great Depression included tree planting and concrete retention walls that lined the boulevard at Everett's Forest Park. Over the years, Mukilteo Boulevard's wooden bridges have been replaced with concrete ones and some of the gullies have been filled in. The road has been widened, paved, and repaved many times to accommodate residential development and increasing traffic from Everett to the Mukilteo ferry.

Despite the development, the road has maintained its charm as it winds through forested woodlands, passing by Edgewater, Harborview, Howarth, and Forest Parks.



*Driving over wooden bridge on  
Mukilteo Boulevard,  
MHS photo*

On a clear day at Harborview Park, you can see Everett, Tulalip, Hat Island, Camano Head, and the Olympic Mountains. Instead of driving along I-5, many travelers prefer to take this scenic route to Everett for medical appointments, entertainment and other "big city" amenities. We are glad to have this choice, and in so doing, we celebrate Mukilteo Boulevard once again.

## ARCHIVE TEAM REPORT

Regular work on MHS archives resumed on July 1st after a hiatus prompted by local COVID-19 rules in March. We are carefully following the reopening guidelines established by the MHS board. Pat Friedrich, John Murray, and Bill and Tina Dickson resumed data entry for photos cataloged in our PastPerfect software. As of July 23, they have added 108 photo descriptions this year against a goal of 200 by the end of the year. Craig Fisher and Peter Anderson resumed cataloging archive items and have completed 132 against a goal of 200 by the end of the year. Archive items include newspaper clippings, letters, manuscripts, documents and other unpublished materials.



*Copy Stand Equipment Setup*

We started to use the copy stand equipment assembled by Dan Germano. It allows us to scan and make digital images of large format items. We also found another use for the equipment in scanning negatives. MHS has three binders of negatives that need to be scanned and converted to printable positives. We use PhotoShop to complete the conversion. IT Committee Chairman, Eric Richstad, purchased and installed this software on our Qtrs A computer earlier this year. We are currently working with him and Al Friedrich to resolve an issue relating to high Qtrs A Internet data usage that has exceeded our Verizon data plan allowance.

~PETER ANDERSON



*MHS Member Dan Germano took this picture of the  
MHS Lighthouse with the Comet NEOWISE in the back-  
ground to the left. Read about Dan on page 3!*

## QUARTERS B REFRESH

If you have visited the lighthouse grounds recently, you may have noticed new shutters in Quarters B, which were installed June 25. The closure of the Quarters B/gift shop this summer provided an ideal opportunity to complete this improvement project.

The MHS Board approved a five year capital improvement plan January 2020 and agreed to replace nine tired and damaged window treatments in quarters B. The board preservation committee conducted research to ensure the project did not compromise historical building register status and the City of Mukilteo granted approval to move forward with the shutter project.

Prior to installation, several activities had to be completed before the shutter installation could begin. The gift shop items and some of the shelving units had to be relocated. All of the windows required repairs, which included scraping, sanding, filling, caulking, priming and painting each window. The majority of this work was completed by board member Mark Sutherland over a three-week time period. Sharon Sutherland assisted with some of the work and she also cleaned the windows and tracks. Some of the damaged window screens were replaced. Joanne Mulloy and Sharon assisted Mark with painting. The shutter installation was completed by Budget Blinds of Everett/Mill Creek. The rooms now have an abundance of light which can be adjusted by the shutter louvers.



Other projects for Quarters B will include housekeeping and general cleaning of walls and woodwork. The gift shop displays will be reconfigured by the gift shop manager Becky Owensby and her team. The exhibit committee, led by Craig Fisher, will meet to consider rotating the historical displays.

~SHARON SUTHERLAND

**Remember!!!**

### August

**Thursday, August 13**

7pm General Meeting via ZOOM

**Thursday, August 27**

6:30pm Board Meeting via ZOOM

### September

**Thursday, September 10**

7pm General Meeting via ZOOM

**Thursday, September 24**

6:30pm Board Meeting via ZOOM

### October

**Thursday, October 8**

7pm General Meeting via ZOOM

**Thursday, October 29**

6:30pm Board Meeting via ZOOM



### MEMBER GAME!

Time to unscramble the flowers that can be found on the lighthouse grounds:

PUTLI	RATES
DDNOEOHDNRRO	SIRI
OFFLIDDA	KLYHHCOLO
AHAIDL	STAHQ
SIMRROPE	CALLIS
SOER	VALENDER
GUMIANER	GRADEHAYN

**Answers:** tulip; rhododendron; daffodil; dahlia; primrose; rose; geranium; aster; iris; hollyhock; hosta; lilacs; lavender; hydrangea

### In Memoriam

MHS is sorry to learn of the passing of Tom Reiva, a long-time member of the Historical Society. Tom served as president of MHS in 2005, and spearheaded the centennial celebration of the lighthouse in 2006. Tom's wife, Jeni, was in charge of lighthouse special tours for many years, shepherding thousands of people of all ages through the lighthouse and gift shop. Jeni's voice is heard as one of the narrators on the lighthouse video. Tom and Jeni moved to Papillion, NE in 2008 to be closer to family. Their enthusiasm for MHS and the lighthouse is still remembered and continues to be appreciated.



## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Good News! While the virus has certainly put a damper on many things our members are continuing to renew and spread the word. We added four new members to our organization over the last few months and had quite a few renewals, bringing our total number of members to 154 for the year.



- ♦ Candace Felt
- ♦ Dona Fretz
- ♦ Christina Stollwerck
- ♦ JD Stollwerck

Usually this is the time when our membership increases drastically as people tour the lighthouse. Since we are unable to open, please help spread the word about our organization to your friends and neighbors to help keep our organization going strong!

~TINA SAUNDERS

## CEMETERY CORNER

The land in which graves repose is often put to other uses, and the human remains are removed. We in Mukilteo are fortunate that this was not the case at the Pioneer Cemetery. Everett is another story.

Evergreen Cemetery in Everett was not the first resting place of many of the city's pioneers. Originally, they were buried in the Greenwood Cemetery, also known as Everett City Cemetery, located at the southeast corner of Evergreen Way and 52nd Street, adjacent to Everett Country Club. Their remains were removed to Evergreen when the land of Greenwood Cemetery was paved over for a strip mall in the 1950s. But not all remains were removed.

After about 1900, Greenwood had become a city welfare cemetery, the final resting place for the unfortunate with no known next of kin—suicides, people who drowned in the river or were hit by trains, and more than a few Indians. The bones of these dead are almost certainly still there; their graves were laid out in the row closest to 52nd Street. As early as 1908 there were complaints that the city was not maintaining the graves and keeping out stray horses and cows.

In 2003, researcher Cindy Smith received a request for a grave photo of one William Woodruff, who died in Snohomish County. She discovered that Mr. Woodruff was buried in Greenwood, and his remains were not removed to Evergreen, so, no photo. How many more like him are there? Evergreen, by the way, has no record of the names of those who were removed from Greenwood.

Until a few years ago, a costume shop was one of the businesses where I shopped at the strip mall. Come Halloween, I used to tell the employees about the cemetery their store sat on. So, let us remember what can happen when history gets forgotten.

~MARGARET SUMMITT

## GIFT SHOP NEWS

The gift shop is closed but volunteers have been busy working on the interior of Quarters B (gift shop). Windows on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor have been upgraded (see article on page 5). The rooms are much brighter than before, and the new shutters make a huge difference. Thank you to Mark and Sharon Sutherland for all your hard work.



We did not receive several items that were ordered last February. However, the apparel in the photos finally arrived! The hooded pullover sweatshirt is green with a kangaroo pocket. This is limited in quantity and we may also order another color for next year.



For the first time (that I know of) we ordered the often-requested women's short sleeved t-shirts. These baseball-style shirts come in two colors, copper and sage. The

copper color doesn't meet my definition of copper but looks more like a muted wine. The popular wind chimes also came in with a good variety of designs, sizes, and prices.

We are working hard to clean out and declutter the gift shop basement. There are two groups of items: donate and trash. The donation pile is growing exponentially. Before items are given away, they will be checked by others to make sure we aren't disposing anything of value. The goal, besides decluttering, is to create better storage for our gift shop back-stock merchandise. While this is a time-consuming project it is very rewarding. Thank you, Joanne for your vision and hard work.

We are hoping to have a "Garden Sale" Labor Day weekend. Mukilteo lighthouse masks are on order and should be received in time for the outdoor sale. Decorative masks seem to be the new fashion statement these days so we are adding our design that you can wear with pride (see image to the left). Stay safe, stay healthy!



~SUE ANDERSON





# 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 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. 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
<b>Archives/Trunk Treasures</b> – Collect & archive all documents, photos, and artifacts relating to the history of Mukilteo. Organize exhibits. Present Trunk tales throughout the community.		
<b>Garden</b> – Join our group of gardeners or adopt a specific garden bed at the light station.		
<b>Gift Shop</b> – Help to price, stock, and maintain inventory. Operate credit card processing terminal and cash register.		
<b>Lighthouse</b> – Become a lighthouse tour guide.		
<b>Maintenance</b> – Liaison to Board about Light Station/Pioneer Cemetery issues and plans.		
<b>Publicity</b> – Advertising (Beacon/Herald/etc.). MHS Newsletter, Membership mailing (Sunshine)/emails/phoning.		
<b>Special Tours</b> – Assist with docent tours, field trips, and visiting groups.		
<b>Technology</b> – Website, internet, social media.		
<b>Weddings</b> – 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

# 2020 Lighthouse 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.



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Jericho Bridge Church

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Stollwerck Plumbing, LLC

## **BASIC SPONSORS\***

Sno-Isle Libraries-Mukilteo Library

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

### **Mukilteo Historical Society**

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