

MHS Newsline

IN MEMORIAM: BEVO ELLIS

By Ann Collier

"Every Time An Old Person Dies, It Is As If A Library Burned Down."

This old adage really rings true as MHS mourns the passing of Beverly (Bevo) Dudder Ellis. Bevo died on September 1, 2020, at the age of 100. The history of Mukilteo is evident when looking back at Bevo's life. In 1920 Bevo was born in a log house her father, Walter Dudder, built on Third Street next to Japanese Gulch. Walter Dudder was a baker and worked at the Crown Lumber Mill. Her mother, Hazel Dudder, taught piano to many Mukilteo residents, including Japanese children. Bevo's birth was attended by Dr. Claude Chandler, Mukilteo's long-time town doctor.

Bevo attended the original Rosehill School, and she loved to tell how the school bell fell with a forlorn gong when the building burned in 1927. Her parents were active in helping Japanese immigrants adjust to American culture which included learning English. They also taught Sunday school and gave music lessons at the community center in the Japanese village. Bevo attended Everett High School and graduated in 1938. By this time, everyone seemed to know Bevo and she seemed to know everyone else!



Bevo, age 18 Everett High School graduation



Bevo speaking for MHS at the Japanese Memorial Dedication, 2000. Pictured with her (L-R) are Mas Odoi and David Tanabe

In 1940, she married Edward R. Ellis and soon they had three children. Ed worked for the City of Mukilteo for many years, serving as Superintendent of the Mukilteo Street Department and Director of the City Public Works. He retired in 1979. Bevo was secretary for the Mukilteo School District from 1957-1977.

Bevo was an enthusiastic charter member of the Mukilteo Historical Society when it was incorporated in 1966. She served MHS in many ways, including being president

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Birthday dinner at Sea Horse Restaurant, circa 1983



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MUKILTEO HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

304 LINCOLN AVENUE, STE. 101
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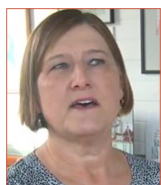
MHS Website

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



One of my favorite things about autumn is the lighting. I have seen trees that were spectacular but a few days later they looked unimpressive. What a great reminder to stay in the moment and appreciate what is happening now. Just like the trees, the MHS membership is showing its true colors amid an awkward and challenging time. Members and the Board are facing adversity with creativity, grit, kindness, and hard work. In March, I could not imagine the virus would still be an issue in fall and winter.

“I am impressed and inspired by this organization, particularly the leadership of the Board as they face this challenge with flexibility and courage. We are learning new ways that are strengthening the organization for the future.”

I am impressed and inspired by this organization, particularly the leadership of the Board as they face this challenge with flexibility and courage. We are learning new ways that are strengthening the organization for the future.

The big news of the fall is the new Mukilteo Light Station roof. I am grateful to the Public Works department at the City of Mukilteo and the MHS Preservation Team for their hard work and determination on this project. The replacement material is a composite and Matt Nienhuis of Public Works worked with the U.S. Coast Guard and the State Historic Preservation office to ensure the color and work were right. The old clay roof tiles removed from the structure weighed ten pounds each! Thanks to Peter Anderson for taking photos and documenting the progression of the project. In the next few weeks, look for a detailed article in the Mukilteo Beacon on the history of the Light Station roof and the most current preservation efforts. This new roof will ensure the lighthouse will be preserved for many more years. This project is only one piece of a bigger project initiated by the Humidity Abatement Team which transformed

into the MHS Preservation Team in January. This team, in collaboration with Public Works, is a success and communicates with those providing grants, such as Lighthouse Environmental Programs (LEP). They will continue to monitor and resolve humidity concerns in the lighthouse. They hope to have more interesting data this winter after the City replaced windows on the first level, added UV resistant glass in the tower, and replaced the roof. The City procured funding to paint the interior of the lighthouse in early 2021. Stop by and check out the new roof and the new look, including the removal of the gutters which

shows off the molding details of the original design.

This fall has been productive! The Board continues to meet monthly on Zoom and has already started planning for 2021. General membership meetings by Zoom started up again in August. The Labor Day Garden sale, detailed in another article in the newsletter, was a wonderful success. Thanks to the leadership of the extraordinary team who worked carefully to organize, plan and staff the event, and all the members who came out to support MHS!

Unfortunately, there was no volunteer season and no end of season potluck. A Christmas party appears unlikely. I miss connecting with members in person at our meetings. Join the monthly Zoom meeting if you are interested. If you want help learning how to join the meeting, reach out to me. Thank you for supporting MHS. I wish you all a warm and wonderful holiday season.

~JOANNE MULLOY

Continued from the front cover...

for five years in the 1980s. When museum space for MHS was set aside at Rosehill in 1979, Bevo spent many hours arranging exhibits and giving tours. When MHS



*The MHS museum collection has been moved several times.
Bevo in the middle of a move in 1992.*

began providing tours of the lighthouse in 1992, Bevo was there volunteering her knowledge, always enlivened by her engaging personality. She was chosen as Mukilteo's Pioneer of the Year in 1998 and helped select Pioneers in subsequent years.

MHS moved to Quarters A and B in 1999 and Bevo, now in her eighties, served with the A-Team in their work on identifying photos and artifacts for the MHS Archives.



Bevo with Ellen Koch & Connie Losvar for Festival in 2003

She also helped plan many exhibits, and was especially involved in the 2010 exhibit entitled, "History of the Mukilteo Fire Department." Both her father Walter Dudder and her husband Ed Ellis had served as Chief of

the Mukilteo Volunteer Fire Department.

Despite her death, we are still moved by Bevo's spirit! You can listen to Bevo on a 2015 Mukilteo Walking Tour by going to www.mukilteowalkingtour.com. You



MHS Officers when Bevo was president in 1983

can hear Bevo's enthusiasm as she talks about the Losvar Mukilteo Boathouse (Stop #1) and the old baseball field (Stop #13). Much more could be written about this amazing and dedicated member of the community. Like a great library, Bevo's passion and knowledge has inspired so many.



At MHS Museum in Rosehill portable, circa 1996-1997

GIFT SHOP NEWS

As we know all too well, the gift shop was unable to open this year due to COVID-19. We had a lot of merchandise that was ordered between January-March and were hoping we could have an event to sell our goods. Pat Friedrich had the insight to hold a Labor Day Garden Sale, which she called a "Gift Shop in the Garden". We put together a core team



(consisting of Joanne Mulloy, Tina Saunders, Sue Anderson and Al Friedrich) and had several meetings to discuss logistics, and organize merchandise that would go under each of the four tents. The sale on these two sunny, windy days was a huge success. Social distancing was adhered to and people patiently waited in line for their opportunity to shop. As an added attraction, Al Friedrich and Peter Andersen dressed in Lighthouse Keeper's uniforms and served as docents in the Lighthouse.

To everyone's amazement, we sold \$1,000 of merchandise in the first hour of the "Gift Shop in the Garden" sale. The gross sales for the two days totaled \$5,279.63 which included \$125.57 in donations.



Photo credit: Dan Germano, Motio Media

The best selling items included: Mukilteo Lighthouse masks, apparel, and miscellaneous household goods.

Our grateful thanks go to the dedicated volunteers (Ann, Bob, Craig, Jerry, Inge, Jan, Mary Mc., Mary O., Nancy, Pat, Peter, Ramona) who worked so hard to make this a huge success. Most worked both days and others volunteered as much time as their personal schedules would allow.

The gift shop will be open two weekends this year for our Christmas/Holiday Sale. Dates are Black Friday weekend (11/27 and 11/28) and the first weekend in December (12/5 and 12/6) from 12:00-3:00 pm. The team has been hard at work rearranging the gift shop to allow for social distancing. Both museum rooms will have tables in the doorways to showcase merchandise. Display furniture has been rearranged to allow for one-way foot traffic. The entrance will be the front door (facing the water), and the exit will be the back door through the enclosed porch.



Photo credit: Dan Germano, Motio Media

Anyone who would like to preorder a Mukilteo lighthouse mask for the upcoming Christmas sale should contact Joanne Mulloy (president@mukilteohistorical.org) or Sue Anderson (sueanderson@mukilteohistorical.org).

~SUE ANDERSON & AL FRIEDRICH

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.

- 
- ♦ **Andrea Moran**
 - ♦ **Alexis Tappert**
 - ♦ **Judy and Chazz Kawabori**

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



November

Thursday, November 12
7pm General Meeting via ZOOM

Friday & Saturday, November 27 & 28
12pm-3pm Black Friday Christmas/Holiday Sale

December

Saturday & Sunday, December 5 & 6
12pm-3pm Christmas/Holiday Sale

January

Thursday, January 14
7pm General Meeting via ZOOM

Thursday, January 28
6pm Board Meeting with Committee Chairs via ZOOM



CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY SALE

Don't miss the annual Christmas/Holiday sale at the Mukilteo Gift Shop! Come support MHS and find some great Christmas gifts!



- **November 27 & 28**
- **December 5 & 6**
12pm-3pm



Private Appointment Sales Available

Contact Sue Anderson (sueanderson@mukilteohistorical.org) or Joanne Mulloy (president@mukilteohistorical.org) for details.

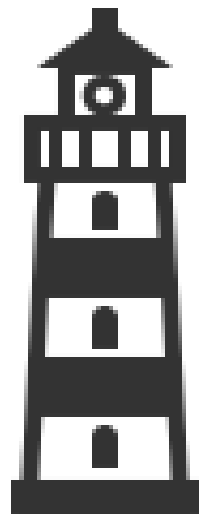
IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

As a reminder, your membership runs from 01/01-12/31 each year. Any member signing up between now and the end of the year will have a membership in good standing through 12/31/21. In the past, many of our new members found us through visits to the lighthouse and word of mouth. Unfortunately, with our lighthouse shut down due to COVID, the number of new members has dropped considerably - so... we are asking all current and past members to help

SPREAD THE WORD!



Do you know someone who loves lighthouses, history or Mukilteo? This is the organization for them. With our expansion to online meetings, we now have members in Alaska, New Jersey, Oregon, Texas, Virginia and even Canada! Please pass the application, our website or have them email memberships@mukilteohistorical.org and we will get them what they need to join our fabulous organization!



CEMETERY CORNER

Old Coffin Handle is a Clue to Pioneer Cemetery History



Why get excited over an old coffin handle?

Like a crime scene detective, I get excited, even 65 years later.

The handle is an artifact in the MHS archives. It's about 3 inches by 2 ½ inches. The ornate scrollwork is still visible under a patina of dried clay. Certain parts are quite rusty, with two rusted screws broken on the inside. It was definitely

for a coffin, not a casket. We know this because a casket is keyhole-shaped, whereas a coffin has straight sides with a rod on either side, attached by metal fixtures so that the pallbearers can carry it. One end of a rod fit into this piece. Its acquisition note says that it was found by the railroad tracks below the Pioneer Cemetery by the son of Virginia Phipps (the date it was found is unknown).

How it got there is fairly obvious. The bluffs above the shoreline periodically slide away. That's why there is a railing at the bluff edge. We don't know how many burials were made near the edge, nor how many coffins have slid down over the years.

This brings to mind a story my husband heard—presently an unverified legend. About ten years ago he was in the Northwest Room of the Everett Public Library, waiting to ask a question of the late, great local historian David Dillard. But David was listening to another man. This is the story he heard:

The year was 1956. The man was a boy then, it was his birthday, and he was walking to a friend's house along the railroad tracks. He saw that several coffins had slid down the bluff, and one of them was nearly on the tracks.

Like a detective, I wonder what became of those coffins? Does Burlington Northern have a record of them? Did the city of Mukilteo have them reburied? And did this handle come from one of them?

When the cemetery was restored in the early 1990s, bronze plaques were placed in the grass with the names of people known to be buried there. I don't know how many of these modern plaques are located where the graves originally were. Some are placed conveniently at the ends of rows (i. e., those of Mortimer Fasset and Jack Price). But three, placed quite close to the edge, mark the graves of Viola, Abbie and Stuart Davis, close together and very near where the edge comes closest to the fence line.

*“Like a detective, I wonder what
became of those coffins?”*

Why would these three Davis plaques be located so close to the edge, unless someone knew it was near where the graves originally were? What happened to the original markers—and coffins?

The thing is, the sons of Virginia Phipps, John R. and J. Max, were born in 1951 and 1953 respectively, and would have been too young to have been the boy who spotted the coffins in 1956. Maybe one of them found this piece later. The answers always lead to more questions.

~MARGARET SUMMITT

MEMBER GAME!

How many seven letter words can you make out of the word **LIGHTHOUSE**?

Here are ten words we found: eighths, ghoulie, gliuest, heights, highest, holiest, hostile, outlies, toughie, ugliest





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:

☐ \$15 - INDIVIDUAL

☐ \$10 - SENIOR (65 OR OVER)

☐ \$20 - SENIOR COUPLE

☐ \$25 - FAMILY

☐ \$500 – LIFE

☐ DONATION ONLY –provide name and address so we may acknowledge your donation

Corporate Applications are available at mukilteohistorical.org or by emailing memberships@mukilteohistorical.org

Applicant #1 Data*:

Name: _____

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

Phone: _____ e-mail _____

Applicant #2 Data*: *Please use a second application form for more than two applicants in family memberships.*

Name: _____

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

Phone: _____ e-mail _____

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

For each applicant, please check the volunteer areas of interest (if any):	#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 & visiting groups.		
Technology – Website, internet, social media		
Weddings – Welcome guests & provide tours for wedding guests.		

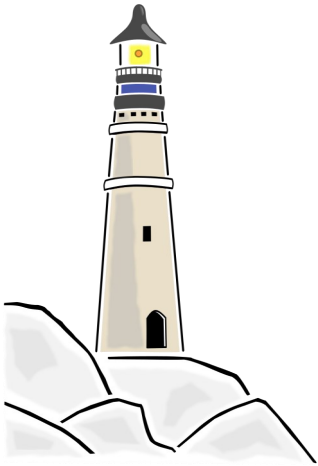
How did you hear about the Mukilteo Historical Society?

☐ Lighthouse Visit ☐ Newspaper ☐ Website ☐ Friend ☐ Other _____

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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Mukilteo Historical Society

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