

MHS Newsline

AM I AN OLD-TIMER?

The Archives of the Mukilteo Historical Society include this letter to MHS from Clyde H. Cowan, written on Aug. 15, 1977, in Seattle. We chuckled as we read the letter about what the qualifications are to be an old-timer, and we think you will enjoy this also:

Mukilteo Historical Society: Perhaps I am qualified to be an old-timer. Excuse the lack of typing, but I will try to write clearly and cross all of the tees and dot all of the eyes.

My first memory of your town dates back to 1916 when my mother and I visited a Mrs. Russell that lived about 2 miles south of your town. She had a daughter by the name of Alice Rogers and a granddaughter by the name of Emma. We owned the five acre tract to the south. Officially that piece of land was tract 48 of West and Wheelers Seaview Addition. We visited her for about 2 or 3 weeks.

In 1919 my mother and her brother Tom Davis moved from Seattle to



Along Park Avenue: Brennan's store on left, Hadenfeldt Theater on right

our tract 48 (or 49?) and lived in a tent by the roadside until a space was cleared in our property. When school was out in Seattle, I would come up on the train. Before making the 2 mile hike up the hill, I would stop at Chandler's Drug Store and enjoy a "baseball" sundae, one of Dr. Chandler's specialties. The trip up the hill involved crossing 4 broken down bridges.

In 1920 I quit school early in the spring to go to our "farm". My uncle Tom lived on the place and cleared land. After cutting a "million shakes", he built a house of sorts.

Some of our neighbors were George, Glen, and Clyde Bump and parents, who moved into the vacant Fleming house, located where the present Jr. High is. Across the road was Ken Leighton and his family that expanded to 11 kids. Up the hill was Melvin Wick and his sister Jenny. Deckmans lived up there, somewhere.

My uncle Tom married a widow, a Mrs. Marie Olsen, mother of Oscar, Selmer, and Gladess. Other folks we knew were Mr. Gersh (Giersch?), who owned a scrubb bull and the fee was \$3.00. In another part of town was a Mr. Cristofferson who had higher class bull. His fee was \$5.00 more. Mike La-

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MUKILTEO HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Happy Spring, MHS members! While on vacation recently, I was pleased with the teamwork and creativity of the MHS Board and what was accomplished in my absence. Spring cleaning has been a significant undertaking in preparation for our limited openings of the lighthouse and gift shop in 2022.

The US Navy painted the top of the tower interior on March 3rd and plan to paint the fence next to Losvar this spring. On March 21st, a national team of US Coast Guard technicians arrived to replace the halogen lens in the historical Fresnel lens with an LED light that is much different. (See page 4). The replacement light will last 8-10 years and eliminates the need for finding replacement parts and service visits. Jerry Arnold is testing dehumidifiers in the lighthouse and Interpretive Center to help with the humidity issues. The City of Mukilteo is planning to do repairs on the front porch of Quarters A this year. Mark Sutherland is prepping, sanding and caulking the windowsills and woodwork for the shutter installation on the second floor of Quarters A - the last phase of the shutter project. Sharon Sutherland is coordinating appointments and repairs or replacements of window screens. She also has done a lot of the cleaning to prepare for opening and before that, painting. We have not had an annual cleaning since 2019 and it was needed. Two display cases were donated to the Stillaguamish Valley Historical Society since they have room for them.

When the gift shop team was completing inventory, they put things away until the room was almost bare. There was talk about painting the room and then it happened quickly. Details are outlined in a separate article. It's a big change and was a lot of time and effort and it will make work easier and safer for volunteer staff. I hope you will all come see the new look at our Members Sale on Saturday, April 30th from 1-3pm.

Peter Anderson was interviewed by a Herald reporter, which ended up as a front page story. The archives have new computer equipment which demon-

strates the importance of our wedding and gift shop income to fund necessary equipment replacements.

I'm impressed with the increase in community teamwork with all our partners which adds to MHS's success. We work closely with the City of Mukilteo, the US Coast Guard, other lighthouse organizations, the US Navy, the Chamber of Commerce, the Lighthouse Festival, Corporate MHS members, the Port of Everett, and so many others. Working together makes our organization stronger. We are planning an open house for these community partners at the end of April.

The gift shop and lighthouse will be open more than it was last year but not full time yet. Becky Owensby recently retired from the role of scheduler. She has done a wonderful job over many years. I am filling in until we find a new focal and your patience is appreciated. We have had one team working over the past two years with the plan to have two teams at the start of 2022, and four teams by Lighthouse Festival weekend. A training session will be held on April 26th via zoom. Contact me if you would like to work future openings. We have eliminated the break person, with the keyholder role being a break person and filling in where needed during the day. The gift shop staff will promote membership and history more since we will have an extra staff member available. Opening hours have been reduced to a three-hour shift (12-3pm) with longer hours on some holidays and Lighthouse Festival weekend.

I've noticed more collaboration between teams and buildings, like the Archives helping with the gift shop photos and postcards. The exhibit and special tours teams are working together on teaching materials and staffing. Nine weddings are on the calendar for 2022. We have many volunteer gardeners, more than I've ever seen. Thanks to the work of the membership team, we have record levels of Corporate and general membership.

Here's to an exciting new year! Thank you for joining us.

~JOANNE MULLOY,
MHS PRESIDENT

sacco lived next to us for a while. He was married to an Indian woman. Other names that I recall are MacConnel (Victor McConnell) and his step-son Doggie Jones.

Mr. Henry Downing formed a musical group. Ada Jones on drums, Downing on trombone and violin, Doggie on trumpet, and me on sax and clarinet. We got together once a week and had fun.

Other names are Fairfield, the bootlegger. Otto and Joe Zahler at the Crown Store. Louis Anderson’s Poolroom. Brown Barbershop. DuPont meat shop. Sam Sorenson, Mrs. Whetstine (Wetstein), Brennan’s Cigar and Candy Store, Smith’s Grocery, Japanese Gulch, The Klemp Family, The Brodniak Family, the Royal Neighbor Hall, Rev. Grubb, Father Long. Mr. Tisdale of the school, Danny Sinclair, Frank Sapinaro, Mr. Cash, the longshore boss. “Crooked Neck” who drove the wood truck. Mr. Hamlin, a member of the “ball gang” at the mill. Mr. Scott, President of the Mill, and Fisher the V.P. His daughter played a sax.

Also in the mill was Billy Wadell, boss of the small chain. Mr. Hurd and Mr. Ford, perhaps timekeepers. Alice Pallas worked in the P.O. Hadenfeld was the Postmaster and operated the movie house. Other names are Eddie Woods, PawPowinski at the mill gate. Merrill and Ring were logging close by as was the Browns Bay Company. Sheriff West was the county Law Officer. My uncle Tom Davis was janitor of the school for about 10 years, including the time it burned down and classes were held in churches.

Do I qualify for membership? --Clyde H. Cowan

We are always happy to hear from old-timers, but we are also glad MHS has many “new-timers” too!



Old Rosehill School where Clyde’s uncle, Tom Davis, was janitor

MHS RECEIVES SNOHOMISH COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT

News of the \$4,900 grant made the front page of the March 31st issue of the Everett Daily Herald in an article written and researched by reporter Claudia Yaw. Per the grant agreement, the funds support the MHS purchase of equipment and software to preserve and protect photographic negatives and other historic archives in our collection.

The grant allowed the Archive Team to purchase an Epson Perfection V850 Pro Photo Scanner capable of digitizing and converting historic negatives into positive images. We also used the grant funds to buy a fire-proof storage cabinet for preserving and protecting precious documents, photographic prints and negatives in our collection.

Our collection includes over 350 old negatives (some on glass plates) that have not yet been digitized and converted to positive images. Without a professional scanner, this process previously involved a tedious and slow process of using a digital camera to take a picture of each negative on a light box, and then “sneaker netting” the result on a flash drive to a computer running PhotoShop to invert each image to a positive. This now can be done in a single step with the new grant-funded scanner.

The new scanning equipment will be set up on the second floor of Quarters A, in the room alongside the copystand equipment that MHS purchased using our own funds two years ago. Together, these setups give us an impressive capability for digitizing negatives and large format documents.

Due to its significant 620-pound weight (empty), we will be locating the new fire-proof storage cabinet in the basement of Quarters A. (It will be even heavier when filled, and the floors above are not typically designed to support such a large weight distributed over a small area.) The cabinet vendor will only deliver this item curbside or to a loading dock, so we have arranged delivery to a local moving and storage company which can bring it into the Quarters A basement. This also gives us an opportunity to have the movers reposition the 525-pound (empty) fire-proof file cabinet that is currently in the basement. Once both of these cabinets are filled and in place, we’ll feel much more comfortable with historic items in our collection being protected in fireproof containers.

~PETER ANDERSON

TREASURER'S REPORT

This Treasurer's Report for the Mukilteo Historical Society, Incorporated (MHS) summarizes the Financial Reports for Fiscal Year 2021.

Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)

1. Total Assets – \$122,613.18
 - a. Current Assets – \$106,076.78
 - i. Cash – \$89,286.73
 - ii. Gift Shop Inventory & Other Current Assets—\$16,790.05
 - b. Fixed Assets – \$16,536.40
 - i. Equipment – \$3,877.54
 - ii. Furniture & Fixtures – \$250.00
 - iii. Property Improvements – \$12,408.86
2. Total Liabilities & Net Assets – \$122,613.18
 - a. Current Liabilities (Sales Tax Payable) – \$581.46
 - b. Net Assets (Equity) – \$122,031.72

Current Assets totaling \$106,076.78 coupled with very low Current Liabilities, \$581.46, yields an excellent economic position for the MHS. At the Annual Board Retreat and Committee meetings in January 2021, the Board approved a multi-year Equipment, Maintenance and Reserve Plan. The plan for 2021 included: restoring the lighthouse cupola, \$3,094.00; display cases, \$250.00; and new shutters and screens, \$7,066.48. Fixed Assets totaling, \$16,536.40 is consistent with the MHS Capitalization Policy and includes capital expenses in 2020 and 2021.

Statement of Activities (Income Statement)

1. Gross Profit – \$16,007.88
 - a. This number includes Total Income, \$30,702.25, less Cost of Good Sold (Gift Shop) – \$14,694.37
2. Total Expenses - \$16,495.63
 - a. Of the Total Expenses:
 - i. Facility Use Permit expenses totaled – \$7,809.94
 - ii. Interpretation & Promotion totaled – \$5,409.26
3. Net Operating Income – (\$487.75)
4. Other Income and Expenses – (\$3,292.36)
 - a. Interest Income - \$21.54
 - b. Cupola restoration - \$3,094.00
 - c. Archive Equipment - \$219.90
5. Net Income – (\$3,780.11)

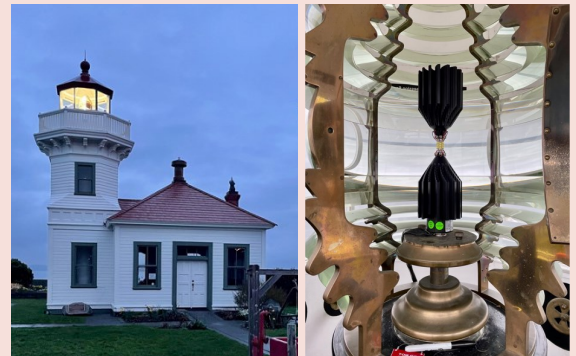
Thanks to the Gift Shop volunteers, the MHS was able to end Fiscal Year 2021 with net operating loss of only \$487.75. The Cupola restoration and Archive Equipment was budgeted using funds in Equipment, Maintenance and Reserves.

~ALFRED R. FRIEDRICH, TREASURER

Certified Nonprofit Accounting Professional

NEW INSTALLATION

The USCG installed an LED light source inside the Fresnel Lens on March 21, 2022. The new LED light is set to flash once every 5 seconds, which is the current signature flash listed by the USCG. Emitting brighter white light than the previous halogen bulbs, the signal can be easily seen by vessels on Possession Sound.



WHAT IS YOUR VISION?

On **May 5** from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. an Open House will be held (location TBD) so members of the public may learn about and comment on ideas for the future development of the Mukilteo waterfront. John Collier is the MHS representative on a public advisory committee that has been discussing the plans proposed by the Port of Everett, City of Everett, City of Mukilteo, the Tulalip Indians, and several other interested agencies and groups.

The common interest of members of MHS is clearly the inclusion of as much local history as possible. John Collier's suggested vision includes "a rich tapestry of information on the Tulalip Indians and Mukilteo's past, including its historic and accessible 1906 lighthouse". He is open to your suggestions, and also encourages everyone to visit the Open House and offer their comments regarding the planning.



April 2022

Saturday, April 30

12pm-3pm Friends & Members Event

May 2022

Thursday, May 12

7pm General Meeting

Saturday, May 21

10am Pioneer Cemetery Clean Up

Thursday, May 26

6:30pm Board Meeting

Monday, May 30

11am Memorial Day Ceremony

June 2022

Thursday, June 9

7pm General Meeting

Guest Speaker: Knute Berger*

Thursday, June 30

6:30pm Board Meeting

July 2022

Thursday, July 14

7pm General Meeting

Thursday, July 28

6:30pm Board Meeting

*MHS is excited to announce the general meeting guest speaker for June is Knute Berger, a noted area historian, popular on the televised PBS/KCTS Crosscut Series: The Mossback Den. Knute's presentation will include video about strange maritime stories related to the Salish Sea. We are truly fortunate to have the "Mossback," on our schedule. Save the Zoom date, June 9th, 7pm.

GIFT SHOP NEWS

The Gift Shop needed a change, and the pandemic provided the time to tackle it. For those of you have not been in the gift shop over the last several years, be prepared. A group of volunteers took on the task of updating the shop with a new look and layout. We are excited for shoppers to see the results.

The walls have been sanded, spackled, and painted with a fresh new color thanks to Mark and Sharon Sutherland's expertise. Old blinds removed and new white shutters installed. Larger pieces of furniture removed, and new pieces built or added, providing a more open, airy, and brighter shopping space. A huge thank you to King Drake who built the new display unit in the center which allow us to display copies of historical photos and artifacts to tie back to one of MHS's mission of promoting the history of Mukilteo.

As the appearance changes, so are the items we are offering. You will still find the usual staples, but we are working to move away from standard "gift shop" items to more unique pieces related to MHS, the lighthouse, and the history of the area.

Come visit and you will see a bookcase at the front of the shop displaying all the children and adult books we offer... including a new children's book in both English and Spanish! The boat donated last year features Mukilteo items, but we have added new artists' work into the mix (Jay Hansen and Elizabeth Person). A new card display allows users to shop for postcards, bookmarks, and cards in one location.

The apparel wall now allows users to see the various options with the backstock directly underneath, broken into cubbies for each size. New apparel is on its way, and we are hoping to have it all in place before our first big event at the end of the month. Other new items include a popular round Mukilteo patch that was carried in the past, a new Mukilteo-specific tapestry that we carried in the past but thought was discontinued, notecards, stickers, new style marble pieces and the ever-popular windchimes. More items are scheduled to arrive over the next several weeks so check back often!

Be sure to attend the upcoming Friends & Family sale scheduled for April 30th from 12-3 p.m. If you can't wait that long or need to come on a different day or time, be sure to email shoplocal@mukilteohistorical.org for a private appointment. We are proud of the updates and look forward to showing it off!

~SUE ANDERSON &
TINA SAUNDERS



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

We have a handful of new members that have joined since our last newsletter so if you recognize a new member, be sure to give them a good welcome.

On April 30th from 12-3 p.m. we will be having a Members and Friends Sale/Grand Opening of the Gift Shop event. Please be sure to help spread the word and bring in anyone you think might be interested in joining the Mukilteo Historical Society... or just wants to come shop!

~TINA SAUNDERS

CEMETERY CORNER

Recently MHS received an email asking for help finding the names of people who were buried in the Highland Memorial Park Cemetery, which opened to the public on May 30, 1970. The cemetery was foreclosed upon in 1977, and ceased operation in about 1979. It comprised about 10 acres, located where the Mukilteo Community Garden is now.

Unfortunately, information about the burials is not readily available. When the cemetery closed, the burial records disappeared along with the financial records. About 2500 burial plots had been sold. One newspaper article says that about 350 people were buried there; most often quoted is the figure 215. As many as 50 burials were permitted in unmarked graves. Most were reinterred in 1982 in Evergreen Cemetery in Everett on the order of a federal bankruptcy judge on June 29, 1982. The bankruptcy was the subject of several lawsuits. An attempt was made to distinguish them by number and rebury them in the same order at Evergreen. It was expected that many would not be identified correctly when placed in Evergreen. When Chris Summitt inquired of Evergreen Cemetery if they had a list of those who were reinterred, they said they had no separate list and that the burial records were scattered among many.

An article in the Herald dated September 5, 1982 detailed the situation but provided few names.

So far, I have found in newspapers the names of a few people: Einar Enga, on whose farm the cemetery was built, and his brother; the father of Phyllis Siler of Mukilteo, Mrs. Kathryn Rudy, Shelby Schuett, and Michael J. Mortensen, age 23, who perished June 9, 1972 in the flood at Rapid City, South Dakota and who was a student at the National School of Business.

~MARGARET SUMMITT

Welcome!

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

- ♦ Bill Cholski
- ♦ Jay Hansen
- ♦ Caroline Cholski
- ♦ Gregory Mortenson
- ♦ Barbara Hansen
- ♦ Tracey Stark

THE MUKILTEO MAZURKA

Bob Dickensheets wrote this in an email to MHS: "I would like to add a little history and humor that very few know about. I was in the US Army and lived on quarters and rations in downtown Seattle at the YMCA in 1950. We went regularly to the Show Box ballroom on First Avenue, a Seattle historic place, to dance. The band at the time was Norm Hoagy. He played all the latest top of the chart music for us to dance to. He was a top local jazz musician. He wrote a jazz piece called "The Mukilteo Mazurka"; you needed stamina to dance to it because it lasted about five minutes."

IN MEMORIAM

MHS sends its sympathy to the family and friends of **Lois Livingston**, who died on January 26, 2022 at the age of 91. Lois was the town librarian, serving both in the library which occupied the old Post Office on Second Street and then at the Rosehill location when the school building became a Community Center. Lois was chosen as Mukilteo's Citizen of the Year in 1989. Lois especially enjoyed working on weddings with MHS, and she had great stories to tell about raising her family in Mukilteo. Her enthusiasm for all things Mukilteo is missed.

Harriet Crooks, a faithful member of MHS for many years, died on November 11, 2021. Nancy Joao wrote that Harriet and her husband Bob were loyal volunteers on the third Saturday crew for years. Nancy relates that Harriet "always joked about trying to hide every time she saw me coming with my clipboard looking for volunteer help. Thankfully she never could say "no" when I caught up with her." Nancy also recalls that Harriet was known for bringing the yummiest items to our potlucks as well as her scrapbooking skills—and for being one of the best customers in the gift shop. Faithful volunteers like Harriet and Bob are truly appreciated.



MUKILTEO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please review the membership categories below carefully. As a member you will receive an exclusive member decal, 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:

- o \$15 - INDIVIDUAL o \$10 - SENIOR (65 OR OVER) o \$20 - SENIOR COUPLE o \$25 - FAMILY
 o \$500 – LIFE o 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?

o Lighthouse Visit o Newspaper o Website o Friend o Other _____

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

2022 SPONSOR HONOR ROLL

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