

MHS Newsline

FROM ROSE HILL TO ROSEHILL

by Soren Sackett

In 1893, the town of Mukilteo would not be immediately recognizable to any modern citizen. The buildings were wooden, ranging from clap-board shacks to modest buildings along the waterfront. It would have

been much quieter than the sometimes bustling commercial area which we know today. With its tiny population of about 300 and lush surrounding woods, Mukilteo was a quiet logging town with a

simple exterior. It is easy to imagine that in such a small town, the construction of Rose Hill school would cause a stir among residents. Designed by Fredrick A. Sexton, Rose Hill became a striking feature of the landscape. It was significantly taller than the surrounding buildings, with decorative arches and details along the front and entrance. Perhaps the most striking feature, however, was the tower just off the building's right which housed the school bell. At the top it was crowned by a pointed dome which completed the stately



The Old Rose Hill School built in 1893.

effect. It was one of the most striking buildings in town.

As it transformed the landscape, so did it transform life in Mukilteo. \$10,000 was put towards the con-

struction of the school. Japanese immigrants living and working in Mukilteo aided the construction of the school. They purchased "utilities, a curtain for the stage, and also gave two busts, one of Washington and one of Lincoln" (Bertrand). The female teachers at the school often boarded in Dutcher's Apartments and were expected to remain unmarried as long as they taught at the school. Dr. Claude Chandler, the first doctor in Mukilteo, served as doctor of Rose Hill School. His wife, Carrol Smith, attended the school before graduating from Everett High School. The first school bus in Mukilteo was a horse-drawn cart which served Rose Hill. It was driven by Roy Weers and pulled by a pair of horses named Bill and Bird.

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MUKILTEO HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

304 LINCOLN AVENUE, STE. 101
MUKILTEO, WA 98275

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Summer has finally arrived and MHS is busier than ever. Thanks to the ambitious efforts of the weeding and planting team, the gardens look wonderful. Families are enjoying the park, and many folks are asking for last minute tours. A record number of weddings are planned this month. Showing off the park, the lighthouse and the gift shop is a source of pride to all volunteers. The Quilt and Garden Tour weekend was a successful collaboration between organizations, creating goodwill for the Mukilteo community.

2022 has been the most challenging year of the pandemic for MHS (and other non-profits and businesses). The Board has logged many hours operating multiple facets of the organization and we are tired. In 2021, the lighthouse and gift shop were open 7 times which increased to 16 in 2022. Staffing is interesting due to limited volunteers and an increase in Covid-19 concerns. Masks are still encouraged for visitors and required for staff.

The Exhibits team are thoughtfully bringing interpretive items back into the lighthouse after the painting was eventually completed. The US Navy painted the top portion of the tower interior and Public Works staff painted the metal ceiling and floor at the top. A new display case in the lighthouse shows the new roof material along with the older heavy tiles. Jerry Arnold is testing approaches to decrease humidity in the lighthouse and has ideas for potential solutions. Mark and Sharon Sutherland completed the last phase of the window shutter project with installation on the second floor of Quarters A. A new display case in the Interpretive Center (IC) now holds Japanese artifacts thanks to Craig Fisher. Photo rails were installed in the IC by Bob Anderson so photos stay in place and can be changed out easily. Mark Sutherland is gathering estimates for foundation repairs for Quarters A and B and I'm pursuing funding options.

Tina Saunders is leading the gift shop and the team through changes. The gift shop team votes on purchasing decisions,

displays items, bring their ideas, solves issues, performs inventory and all volunteer in the gift shop. Sue Anderson and Inge Greeninger are also on the Finance team. Other members are: Pat Friedrich, Mary McElroy, Ramona Stafford and Sandy Tyler. If you want to see the refreshed gift shop, please stop by when it's open or request a private shopping appointment.

Peter Anderson has completed the work for the Snohomish County Historical Society grant for equipment and cabinets for the Archives team. A full description is detailed in the spring newsletter.

We continue to receive more publicity. Margaret Summitt was interviewed for the Lynnwood Times. The Herald's Coast magazine published a story on the Mukilteo, Admiralty Head and Bush Point lighthouses. The Mukilteo Quilt and Garden Tour added MHS to their publicity book and made the lighthouse a stop on their tour! Teamwork continues within the community as we collaborate with the City of Mukilteo, Lighthouse Festival, Corporate members and the Chamber of Commerce. Talking to contacts in other lighthouse organizations, we share many of the same challenges. MHS membership has grown under the leadership of Tina Saunders with over 200 members! Al Friedrich maintains the MHS financial structure and has created new policies and procedures to prevent potential issues in the future. We are fortunate to have his expertise and proactive perspective.

If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to me. We currently need help with marketing tasks, the membership drive, software testing and scheduling. If you are interested, let's discuss your skills and interests. New volunteers are mentored and given opportunities to check out the job role before making a commitment. It's an exciting and fun time to volunteer at MHS during this time of change and innovation.

Enjoy your summer! Thank you for being part of our organization!

~JOANNE MULLOY,
MHS PRESIDENT

Rose Hill School saw several generations of students graduate over the next few decades, until the fateful night of March 17th, 1928 -- St. Patrick's Day. The quiet evening which marked the end of the holiday was punctuated by an uproar. A young boy discovered flames and sounded the bell which alerted firefighters. The crew, composed only of volunteers, had to pull a hose by hand out of a garage across the



Rosehill School opened in September, 1928

bridge. They eventually subdued the flames and through their efforts, were able to save a portion of the structure. The relief was temporary and not more than an hour later, the fire was back with a vengeance and destroyed the rest of the building. A "mournful gong" (Bertrand 98) sounded from the school bell as the iconic domed tower was lost to the blaze. Phyllis Anderson, who was five-years-old at the time of the fire, was able to feel the heat of the fire, which roared only a short distance away from her childhood home on Third Street, as her sister shed some tears for her burnt pencil box (qtd. in Bruestle, "Pioneers of the Year remember old Mukilteo"). Firefighters concluded that the fire had been caused by a short circuit. There was nothing left of the building to salvage and classes were quickly moved into local churches and the Royal Neighbors Hall.

Rose Hill had been insured for \$40,000 and this money was immediately put to use to build a new school. Less than a week later, the Mukilteo School board approved plans for Rose Hill to be rebuilt. This time, the school would be designed by architect Earl Morrison and would feature two stories, 10 rooms, a basement, and a gymnasium which could double as an auditorium. To mark this new era, the school's name was changed from Rose Hill to Rosehill. It would cost \$65,000 to build and be made from concrete, a much less flammable material than

the old wooden school had been constructed from. Just as quickly as the plans were approved, construction began. The new Rosehill School was completed that very same year. On September 12th, 1928, Rosehill's doors opened to students again. Rosehill School continued to serve Mukilteo's youth for several more decades.

After years of deliberation, it was decided that Rosehill would transform once again. The construction of newer and larger schools such as Mariner High School in 1970, Explorer Middle School in 1973, and Kamiak High School in 1993, among others, meant that it was time to find a way for Rosehill to better serve the community's needs. In September of 2009, the Mukilteo City Council voted to fund the construction of a new community center in place of Rosehill. The contract for construction was awarded to Allied Construction and they broke ground on the site that same month. Mukilteo remained in anticipation during the preceding months. Various stories ran in the local paper reflecting on the history of the site, reporting how construction was proceeding, and debating the financial wisdom of the endeavor. The project was not without its challenges. A track-hoe collapsed on December 9th, 2010, when it ran over an abandoned septic tank while relocating the Point Elliot Treaty Monument from the school grounds. Unforeseen structure issues meant that the old archway of the building had to be demolished, although they had hoped to preserve it. But despite these temporary hurdles, the 29,000-square-foot community center was finished at last and held its grand opening on February 5th, 2011. Residents from all over Mukilteo poured into the building to celebrate Rosehill's new lease on life.

Over a decade later, Rosehill remains a beacon of community and history in Mukilteo. It's a popular destination for homecoming photos, art exhibits, recreation classes, or a quiet afternoon spent relaxing with friends. It's touching to think that centuries of residents have enjoyed, and will continue to enjoy, the same space that we do today. So here's to Rosehill: past, present, and future.

Editor's Note: Ms. Sackett is a 2022 graduate of Kamiak High School. For a list of works cited for this article, please see page 6.

GIFT SHOP NEWS

While we have had a handful of openings here and there throughout the pandemic, MHS officially opened the doors to the revamped gift shop in April. In total we have opened for 7 scheduled days with some private sales sprinkled throughout these last couple of months. This strategic slow open has allowed the team to ensure new volunteers are trained on the updated Clover system, the new layout, offerings, and felt comfortable in their role as hosts of the gift shop. By promoting a spirit of community, the team is poised to answer questions about the lighthouse, Mukilteo, the surrounding area, the products offered and even where to get the best ice cream or a tasty lunch. This creates an environment of warmth as each guest comes through the door.

Instead of purchasing all inventory upfront, the gift shop team is placing orders throughout the year. This allows the team to see what products are selling and reorder/restock quickly, especially as we continue working with local vendors where possible. We will continue scouting for new local artists, vendors, and authors to add into the mix.

Speaking of local vendors, here are some new items currently featured in the shop:

Pilchuck Soap Company (Mill Creek) - a woman-owned business producing delightful soaps made especially for the MHS gift shop. Three soaps are currently being offered, each very distinct and unique in their appearance: Lumber Legacy, Mukilteo Garden and Salish Seabreeze. Educational content provided by MHS



is even included on the packaging!

A Stitch and a Prayer (Mukilteo) - a woman-owned business produced pillows highlighting the Mukilteo Lighthouse and its navigational coordinates - exclusive to the MHS Gift Shop. These pillows are perfect for displaying your love of the city and the outside cover is washable!



Moon Mountain Art (Mukilteo) - if you have been in the shop before, I am sure you noticed the long cards for sale featuring the watercolor artwork of the Kittitas ferry and the Mukilteo Lighthouse by Jay Hansen. We are now offering the same image on mugs and pens, and they are stunning!



Earthwindows (Mukilteo) – Joe Dreimiller, a local photographer and retired park ranger, captures beautiful images of the lighthouse, ferry, flora, and fauna of the Pacific Northwest. In ad-

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dition, he produces unique metallic prints which are now available for sale in the gift shop.

We hope to see you at one of the upcoming openings... we have lots of new things to offer. If you don't see what you need be sure to let the team behind the counter know so we can add it to the 'list'!

If you want to visit outside of scheduled openings, email shoplocal@mukilteohistorical.org for a private appointment.

Last Minute Update – The long-awaited ferry Christmas ornaments and key chains (pictured below) are back in stock!



~SUE ANDERSON
&
TINA SAUNDERS

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Weddings - help staff lighthouse grounds during weddings/ceremonies (can be single event or ongoing - email weddings@mukilteohistorical.org if interested)

Publicity - help coordinate ads with Beacon - email publicity@mukilteohistorical.org if interested (ongoing)

Gift Shop - help visitors find merchandise, cash register operation, backstock - email giftshop@mukilteohistorical.org if interested (ongoing during season)

Lighthouse Docent - help facilitate visitors coming into the lighthouse and ensuring light is protected - email lighthouse@mukilteohistorical.org if interested (ongoing)



August 2022

Sunday, Aug 7
Lighthouse Open 12pm-3pm
National Lighthouse Day

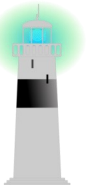
Thursday, August 11
7pm General Meeting

Thursday, August 25
6:30pm Board Meeting

September 2022

Thursday, September 8
7pm General Meeting

September 9-11
Lighthouse Festival
September 9th & 11th; 12pm-3pm
September 10th; 12pm-6pm



Thursday, September 29
6:30pm Board Meeting

October 2022

Thursday, October 13
7pm General Meeting

Thursday, October 27
6:30pm Board Meeting

Saturday, October 29
12pm-3pm Member & Friends Sale

CEMETERY CORNER

This is an updated profile of Walborg Smedberg Losvar that appeared in 2018. Walborg was the second wife of Paul (Larson) Losvar. She left Lake Linden, Michigan in 1905 with her three stepchildren to join Paul in Mukilteo.

Walborg's roots reveal that her father, Johann Carl Smedberg, was born in Sweden in 1842. Her mother, Laura (Petersdatter) Torvaldsen, was born in Norway about 1840. She married Johann Carl Smedberg about 1860. Walborg was the second of seven children.

Walborg was working in 1891 as a domestic servant, age 29, in Thames Ditton, Surrey, England. She departed from Liverpool for Montreal, Canada on the ship "Mongolian" and arrived 14 June 1894. I had not previously found her because her gender was listed as male! She was age 34 and single. She married Paul Larson in 1895 at Lake Linden, Houghton County, Michigan. According to the 1900 Census, she was the mother of one child, no longer living.

I do not find evidence that her mother Laura came to America. Johan Carl Smedberg and Laura Smedberg were still living in Norway in 1900. The photo of Laura and Walborg in the Mukilteo Historical Society collection was taken in a studio, and probably dates from around 1890.

Walborg died in 1907 in Mukilteo and is buried in the Pioneer Cemetery.

~MARGARET SUMMITT

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Our community is GROWING! We now have 208 members and hope to add even more over the next few months. Please give a warm welcome to our newest members listed below.

~TINA SAUNDERS

Welcome!

- Marci Carchia
- Molly Cole
- Frank Dellino
- Pam Dellino
- Joe Dreimiller
- Sharon Dreimiller
- Karl Garrison
- Anais Greenley
- Elizabeth R LaRance
- Margarete Litzinger
- Mark Litzinger
- Doyle Martin
- Jane Mason
- Meghan Mason
- Brittanie Reyes
- John Reyes
- Fonda Ross
- Jay Snyder
- Rhonda Snyder
- Ayako Takamori
- Kraig Yager
- Teri Yager

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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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