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# Stanwood Area ECHOES



*Newsletter of the Stanwood Area Historical Society*

*Issue 40, December 2010*

## DAVE'S HISTORY TOURS

Few newcomers are aware of Stanwood's Stillaguamish River history. One special way to learn about it is to go on one of Dave Eldridge's walking tours. Dave gives several tours a year to local students on Stanwood's history. The tour includes a stop at Twin City Foods to look over the dike bordering their parking lot. This location provides a special perspective on area history when transportation was primarily by water. The steamers and other boats docked here where there was a wharf, D. O. Pearson's store and other businesses. Here the homesteaders, loggers and farmers could arrive, leave and transport their products to and from this beautiful, fertile river valley.

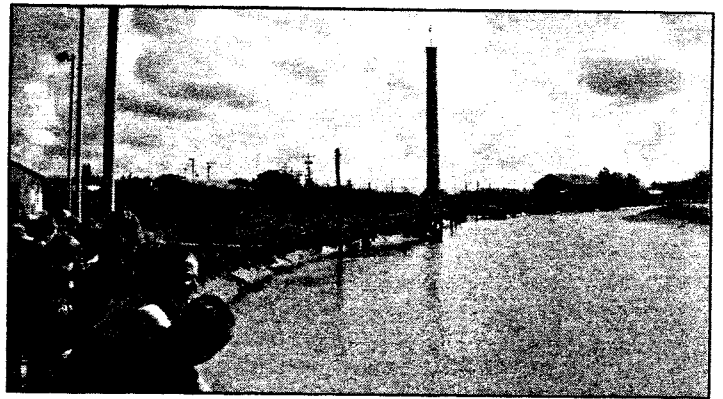
The photographs below show the waterfront looking east from Twin City Foods. The Hamilton stack in the distance was built in 1926 for a large lumber mill, one of two on the waterfront at the time. Though river traffic was dependent on the tides even in the early days, steamboats could travel up the river as far as Florence, 6 river miles east (about 1 mile as the crow flies). The historic photograph shows the river before the river filled in over the last 100 years and became longer navigable. Just east of Twin City Foods there is a 30 foot stretch of blackberry covered dike that the City of Stanwood owns. City officials once considered developing this small strip for public access. But the funding never materialized.



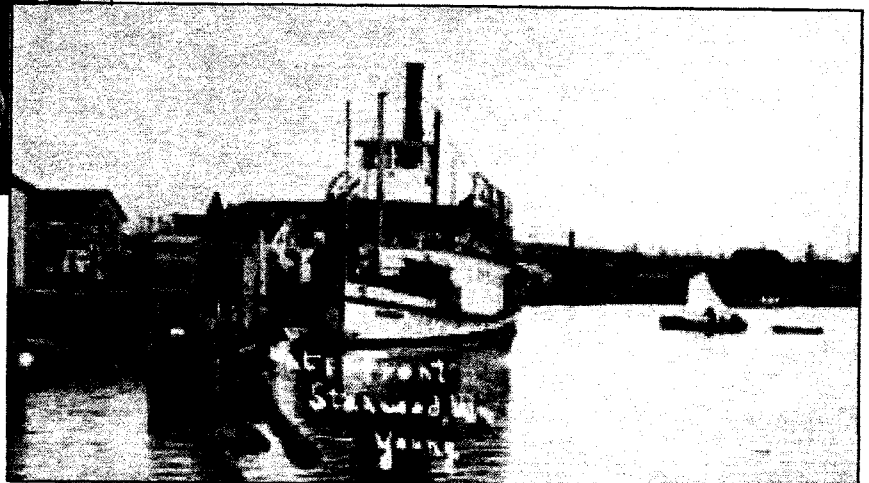
*Dave Eldridge (above) with school tour group*

*The Steamer photo (left) was taken before the lumber mill was built, the site was then used by a shingle mill, a small stack is visible in the distance.*

For more of our river history, see our exhibit *Steamers, Ships & Shorelines* at the museum! Or pick up a copy of *River Rails and Roads* or Alice Essex's *Stanwood Story*.

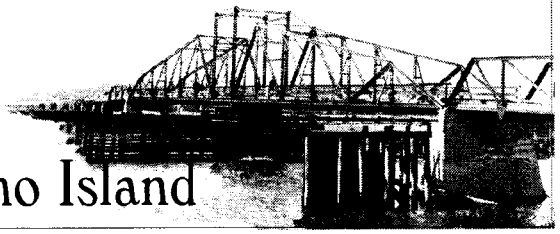


*In the view above you are looking upriver to the South Pass and Port Susan, or northwest into West Pass and Skagit Bay.*





# Times & Places of Stanwood & Camano Island



## A FERRY AND THREE BRIDGES A Chronology

Before 1909, travel between Camano Island and the mainland was by barge, scow, launch or steamers. It became more important in 1890 when the railroad made a connection at Stanwood. But it took twenty years and the introduction of the automobile before a bridge was built.



Cable Ferry across the Stillaguamish River's West Pass, circa 1905

There is a small island between Camano and Stanwood called Leque Island after one of the first families who farmed there. This view shows the cable ferry that was used to travel across West Pass between Leque Island and the west end of Stanwood. The ferry crossed about where the current Mark Clark Bridge is now located. Commercial goods, such as milk from Camano farms, had to be brought by boat limiting economic growth for the island. The view above looks west towards the Eide Farm on Leque Island. (The Eide Family was the other main family that farmed the small diked island between Camano and Stanwood which is now a Wildlife Recreation area)

Finally in 1909, the bridge over the West Pass of the Stillaguamish River was built making it possible to drive from Stanwood to Camano Island. New roads were the main expense for the counties at the time and there was a great celebration of this bridge in both Stanwood and Camano. This view shows the structure holding the bridge that also deflected logs or collisions away from the bridge supports or perhaps rested the bridge when it was open. It also held the mechanism for turning the bridge. There was a bridge tender who lived on the east side of the

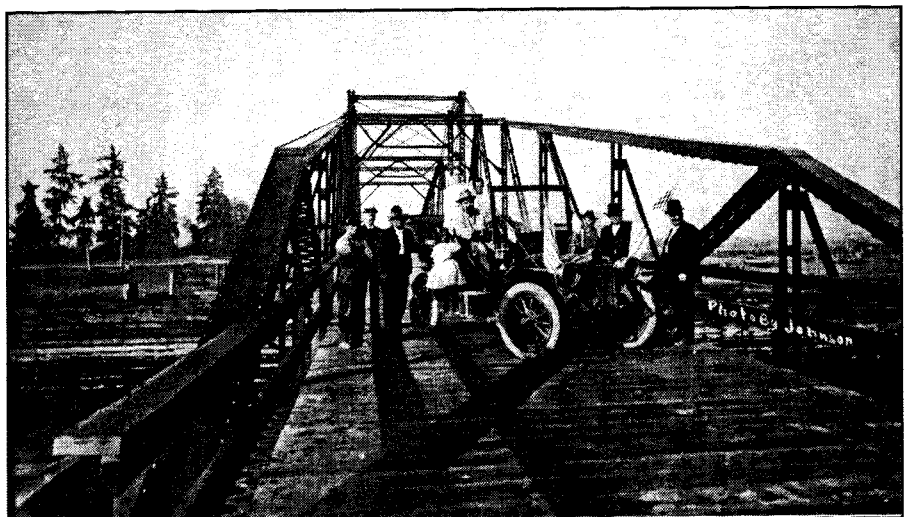
bridge who opened it bridge when a steamer signaled its approach.

In 1940, residents were beginning to request a new bridge from Stanwood over the Stillaguamish River to replace the 1909 swing bridge.

In 1945, a bill passed that added the road from U. S. 99 to McEacheran's Corner (now Terry's Corner) on Camano Island to the State Highway system. It was then called SSH 1 Y. (In 1964 it became SR 532) This enabled the legislature to appropriate funds to build the bridge in 1947. On July 23, 1950, the General Mark Clark Bridge was dedicated. It was named after a WWII Army Officer who served in Europe under General Dwight Eisenhower. He and his family spent time vacationing and fishing on the island and considered retiring here. Though his wife spent time here, other opportunities came up for him and ultimately he never lived here.

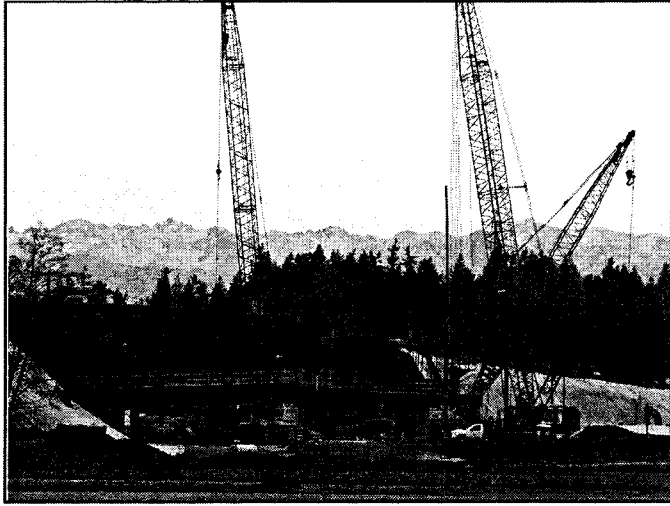
This two lane bridge has served the Camano Island population (currently over 13,000 residents) for over 50 years.

"Straightening and re-grading of connecting roads through town and up Land's Hill were part of the project. So was the smaller bridge across Davis Slough. When completed, the cost totaled \$615,000 but worth every cent of it, since it forged a new link in the chain of progress for Camano and the Twin Cities." wrote Cliff Danielson. *The Stanwood Story* vol 3, p. 30. [Stanwood Camano News 1998]



1909 Bridge to Leque Island.

# THE MARK CLARK BRIDGE NOW ONLY HISTORY



Picture from WSDOT 532 - Building the New Bridge  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/wsdot/sets/72157622044469081/>

This past year our community has witnessed a new bridge being designed and built before our eyes. Every day we watched workers with the large cranes lay monstrous framework and finally the wider surface was laid. The bridge was built alongside the 1950 General Mark W. Clark Bridge over the West Pass of the Stillaguamish River from Stanwood to Leque Island. It was the island's only access to the mainland.

Concurrently in Stanwood, the new traffic lanes, sidewalks, bus pullouts, curbs are almost completed as part of the \$84 million safety-improvement project, funded primarily by the 2005 Transportation Partnership Program (TPA) gas tax.

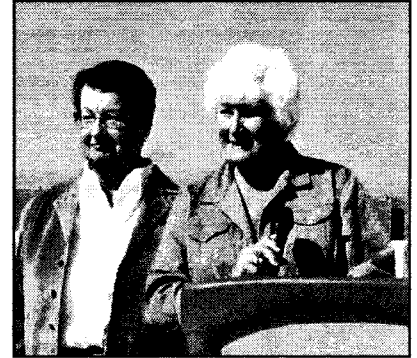
Now the cranes are gone and we already wonder what the bridge looked like before. The dedication of the new "Camano Gateway" Bridge was in August and Transportation officials were happy to report its seismic improvements, wider lanes and improved safety.

There are several people still living in the community who took part in the July 1950 dedication of the Mark W. Clark Bridge. Lenore Schultz Moa was part of both the original ribbon cutting in 1950 and the 2010 dedication, when she was joined by her husband, former Stanwood Mayor Don Moa. Lenore said she thought she was

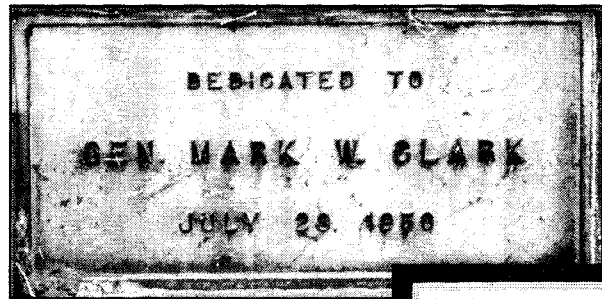


Lenore Schultz, now Moa, in 1950

chosen because Mr. Bugge, the Transportation Director asked the local banker, Lloyd Amundson, to find a young person to cut the ribbon. Amundson came to the bakery owned by her father, Mr. Schultz, and asked Lenore if she would do it. She cut the ribbon twice because when she first cut it the photographer wasn't ready and she had to cut it again. Others present at the 2010 dedication were the Lawson Family whose father, Bert Lawson, was the original bridge tender. He operated the turnstile of the old swing bridge to allow passage of boats into the Stillaguamish River.



Lenore Moa and Senator Haugen in 2010



The Dept. of Transportation has donated the bronze plaque [above] that was on the southeast side of the bridge to the Stanwood Area Historical Society. The plaque designated the name and dedication to General Mark Clark. His wife Maurine spent a few years on Camano intermittently and they planned to retire here but ultimately he was called away for other duties.



General Clark on the Cover of Time on July 7, 1952

At the time Maurine wrote her autobiography, "Captain's Bride, General's Lady" (N.Y., McGraw Hill, 1956, p. 66), she said that Camano Island "is a part of the Clark family way of life, the one place in all the world that is our own. And when we drive to Camano from Stanwood, Washington, these days we drive across a beautiful new bridge that has replaced the rickety wooden span that use to connect the island to the mainland. The new bridge is named the General Mark Clark Bridge....[but] the future offered many roads. In the beginning the most alluring to us was the road to Camano Island and complete freedom. Then new roads began to open..."

## BRIDGE

### GEN. MARK CLARK'S CAREER

Highlights of General Clark's military career include his service in WWII as Eisenhower's deputy for the invasion of North Africa followed by his appointment as Commander of the 5th Army driving the Germans from Rome to their surrender in 1944. He took command of the 6th Army in 1948 after trying to negotiate a treaty for Austria. In April 1952 he became United Nations Commander in Korea and Commander in Chief of the U.S. Far East Command. He signed the Armistice agreement that ended fighting in Korea in July 1953. Clark left the Army in 1954 to become president of the Citadel Military College of South Carolina, a position he held until his retirement in 1966. He died on April 17, 1984. His wife Maurine died in 1974.

Sources: General Clark wrote two books and there are numerous historical articles plus analysis of his wartime role is prominent in most WWII histories. Two easily accessible articles are listed below: "Conqueror of Rome :Gen. Mark Clark Dies at 87; Last of World War II Chiefs." *New York Times* (1923-Current file), April 17, 1984. "Clark, Mark Wayne (1896-1984)." *Encyclopedia of World Biography*, Detroit: Gale, 1998. *Gale Biography In Context*. Web. 11 Nov. 2010

## CONCERTS AT THE FLOYD

presented by the Stanwood Area Historical Society

### an INTIMATE CHRISTMAS

SAT., DEC. 11 AT 7:00 PM

Christmas Favorites for  
Soprano, Lute and Flute!

Holiday refreshments will follow this intimate and yet festive program of Christmas music from past centuries, performed on period instruments. This program of renaissance and baroque favorites will include selections by Johann Sebastian Bach and George Frideric Handel. The performers will provide information about their

Linda Tsatsanis ....soprano  
John Lenti .....lute  
Jeffrey Cohan . early flutes

Suggested donation : \$15  
Youth 18 and under free!



Floyd Noorgard Cultural Center, 27130 -102nd Ave NW, Stanwood (360) 629-6110

## See our exhibit:

### BERRIES, FARMS & DAIRIES

Be sure to come in to see our photographic exhibits of the Stanwood High School Class Picture Gallery, Schoolhouse & Team Photographs, East Stanwood Street Views or pick up books on the history of the Stanwood Camano area, the History of the Utsalady Ladies Aid or the Story of the Stanwood Waterfront. Check out new stories on [www.historylink.org](http://www.historylink.org). Search by using keywords such as: Stanwood, Camano, railroads, dikes or parks.

## FASHIONS THROUGH TIME

SAHS may be putting together a new exhibit to replace Berries, Farms & Dairies if there is enough interest. We will feature clothing, men's, woman's and children's from days gone by. In addition to clothing we are looking for mannequins or dress forms to display the clothing, as well as photographs, advertisements or writing describing attire.

If you have any of the above that you are interested in loaning to the Museum or are interested in working on the exhibit please call: Janet Mayer 360-387-8723 or Janet Larson 360-629-3074

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 11, 7 p.m. ..Jeffrey Cohan in Concert  
December 21, 4 p.m.: ....SAHS Board Meeting  
January 18, 4 p.m.....SAHS Board Meeting  
February 15, 4 p.m.....SAHS Board Meeting  
February 26-27 .....Snow Goose Festival

## VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED

**Events Helpers** - Selling calendars, working in the kitchen, working with children, keeping the museum open during FNCC events.

**Collections** - We need help with cataloging and recordkeeping projects. We work with some great antiques, household items, furniture, dollhouses, photos, scrapbooks, maps. We also need help researching, describing our artifacts for displays.

**Docents** - Historical knowledge is not necessary to be a docent at the museum, just a friendly welcoming attitude and willingness to learn.

Please call if you can help 360-629-6110

## CALENDARS

2011 Calendars are available at the Snow Goose Bookstore, Stanwood Hardware, Union Bank, Stanwood Camano News, Lookin Good Barber Shop, The Duck Inn Coastal Banks.