

## The Farm On Stump Alley

### Editor's note:

Member Helen Heil Rohlman who currently lives in Alaska, wrote the following two stories, one a recollection of her childhood on South Hill during WWII and the other, memories of the South Hill Home Craft Club. Her sister Mildred Dobbs, who lives locally, is also a member of our society.

**O**ur little Heil farm of five acres was purchased in the early 1920's.

Dad (Joe Heil) was a widower, after his first wife and infant son died during the bad flu epidemic of that era. He was left with one daughter, Margaret, so they left Chicago and were coaxed out to Washington by acquaintances he knew.

My Mom (Helena Heil) was divorced and had a daughter, Gertrude. The two of them met in South Tacoma when Dad worked at the Northern Pacific railroad shops.

They married on January 31, 1926 and three Heil girls appeared. First, Dorothy Heil Morris (Seattle), then Mildred Heil Dobbs (Puyallup) and last yours truly Helen Heil Rohlman (Alaska).

The folks had it rough during the Depression with seven mouths to feed. But they had a cow, pigs, chickens and always a large garden, so meat, vegetables and fruit were canned and even eggs were preserved by putting them in water glasses (I understand the whole egg was covered in a solution that would seal the pores of the egg shell and the eggs could be kept longer when the hens ceased laying).

Mom and dad picked strawberries, raspberries and blackberries every day during the season. They would have an older daughter pick berries with them, and the other would run herd on the three younger ones.

Mom said they made enough money picking berries to buy sugar, flour and other staples to last them through the winter.

Our house was on Walnut Street (now, 83rd Avenue East) behind the Fruitland Grange Hall. We girls would laugh and say "We live on Walnut Street.... all the NUTS live there!"

Before our road was formally named it was called Stump Alley because they had to remove about 50 trees and stumps to straighten the road. I believe this was a W.P.A. project for some men to have a job during the Depression.

My Dad blasted many stumps and used his "buzz saw" to cut the stumps in lengths for our wood stoves.

We had a very small two-story house and the kids slept upstairs. The only warmth we had was the heat from the wood stoves downstairs when the stair door was propped open.

The scariest time of my life was during World War II as you could hear planes passing overhead, day or night from McChord Air Field. Our family, like others, had to cover windows so no light would be evident from above.



*The Heil house and farm on Walnut Road (today's 83rd Avenue East).*

During that time it was not unusual to hear a faint rumble in the distance and it would get louder the closer it came. It was a troop convoy from Fort Lewis, Washington, transporting soldiers to the East Auburn Depot (Milwaukee Railroad)

for shipment overseas or to other bases. We kids would run from home to Airport Road (now 112th Street East) and watch the convoys pass. We would wave and yell "good-bye," not knowing if the troops would return home.

The families on the home front made small sacrifices also. Gas rationing, food meat and sugar stamps. Old aluminum pots and pans were donated to the collection center on the island of Broadway and St. Helen's Avenue in Tacoma for the war effort.

There were no fresh bananas, just dried ones, no pineapple, coconut, or chocolate. Anything good in a cookie was not available.

I still remember the Buck Private candy bar that was available during the war years. It seemed to be made of oatmeal, raisins, nuts and molasses with a light carob coating, not a good chocolate coating.

No tires, no new cars or bicycles—everyone just tightened up their belts and got along.

The best place to live was on a small farm on South Hill because the people were hard working and could manage to take care of their families.

# Home Craft Club of South Hill

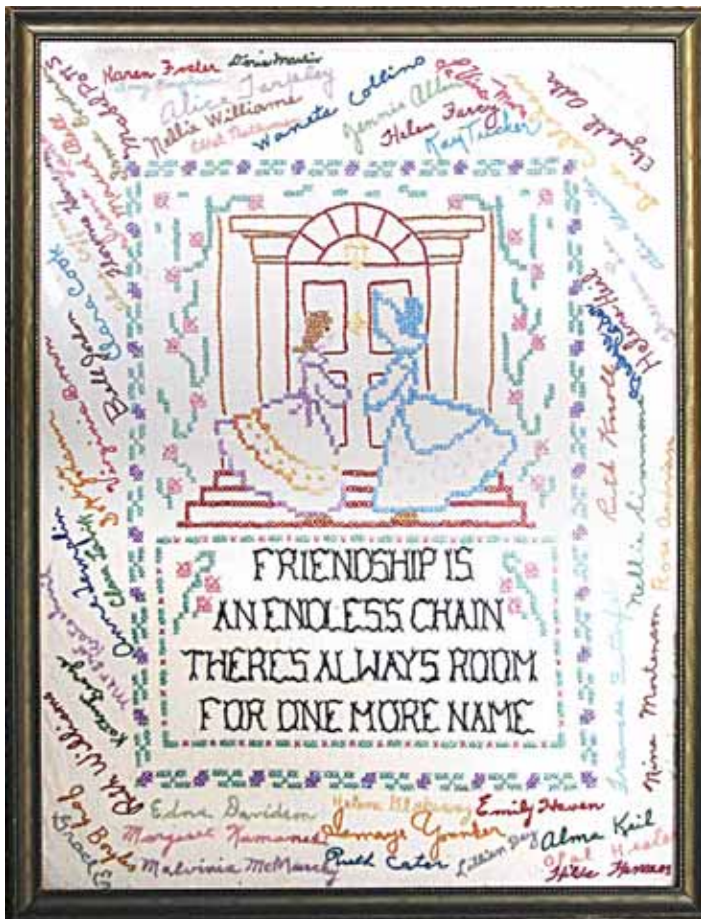
By Helen Heil Rohlman

The Home Craft Club was formed by a group of ladies that lived in the Woodland School area, before and during World War II.

From what I can remember, it was a get together, about once a month at different ladies' homes. They looked forward to that as much as a man's poker night out.

Only a few women could drive cars, so the others either walked or hitched a ride to their meetings.

The ladies were interested in new crafts and handiwork and often had projects to complete.



This embroidery was done in the 1930s by the Home Craft Club on South Hill and donated to our society by Mr. W. Lynn Williams & Mr. Robert H. Williams. Mable Litton designed and made the work.

One project I remember was each member was asked to bring a large, patterned flour sack and create something out of it. The ideas were many: dishtowels, clothes pin bags or aprons, but the winner created a darling little boys shirt out of one flour sack!

A charitable purpose they had during World War II was making lap robes for servicemen in Madigan Hospital at Fort Lewis, Washington. Mom (Helena Heil) spent hours gathering used wool garments, taking the seams out, pulling the loose threads, washing the strips of wool material and then pressing them, and would then cut them in 5" squares. The final steps were to crochet the edges with bright-colored yarn and then sew the squares in an attractive pattern into a warm lap cover. The ladies were proud to help with the war effort in

any way they could. Some of the Home Craft ladies entered their fancy work at the Puyallup Fair and were quite proud of their accomplishments.

Members I recall are: Ann Templin, Nellie Williams, Edna Davidson, Dora Callahan, Mrs Adrain, Virginia Tuttle, Maude Swalander, Erma Goodner and my Mom, Helena Heil.

There are probably more names on the stitchery that you could add.

## The President's Annual Report

**June 2004 through May 2005 has been very significant in the life of the Society. Here are the highlights:**

### Speakers during the year

Ray Tobiason, Eunice Barth Gilliam, Diny Shaw Robinson, Chris O'Kelley, Arlen Davison, Kevin Wimsett, Cecil Herbert and his sister Marilyn Burnett, and Don Kessler.

### Major Projects

- Jerry Bates made a professional stand-alone display promoting our Society. The display has been used at the Western Washington Fair and two banks on South Hill.
- Don and Mary Glaser led the officers on a trip to the historic Naches Trail near Greenwater, WA.
- We explored the Maplewood Springs area, looking for signs of the 1912 streetcar wreck.
- During the year we worked hard to seek and receive 501-C-3 tax-exempt status. Paul and Ben Peters wrote the lengthy application.
- Carolyn and Paul viewed the 1904 Lester family home, now owned by Ralph and Yvonne Thorpe and designated "Historic Home-001".
- We honored Hazel Miller Whitford Goheen at a dinner prepared by Diny Thun Robinson with 14 present.
- One of our largest projects was helping produce *My Home Town South Hill*, a Comcast Channel 76 program, hosted by Dorothy Wilhelm in which 15 minutes of South Hill history was presented in the 29-minute broadcast.
- Don and Mary Glaser took photographs of the interior of the Old Mill Dance hall.
- Paul was a mentor to Jeffrey Arnold, who did his senior culminating project on ten old homes in the area, giving each owner an application form for seeking historic recognition.
- We continued issuing quarterly newsletters. In the September issue Editor Jerry Bates wrote the feature article on exploring Maplewood Springs, searching for a 1912 streetcar wreck. Later issues included another article by Jerry on Shaw Road. Carl Vest wrote an article of early aviation on South Hill (S&S Airfield on the west side of Meridian Ave). Paul Hackett developed a story based on interviews with Hazel Miller Whitford Goheen and did a story about our involvement in the production of *My Home Town-South Hill*.

### Interviews

- Robert P Taylor, a South Hill resident, whose aunt was Mrs. James Longmire, called the Society and we then interviewed him and his wife four times, seeking history of events in early Washington State.
- In addition we have videotaped nine other persons during the year.

**Community Relationships**

•We prepared a paper discussing ways the Society can relate to the City of Puyallup on historic matters. •We cooperated with the County in the Pierce County involvement with Conservation Futures Fund regarding the Heritage Corridor, the McMullan Reservoir, the Amphitheater and the groundbreaking ceremony for the Nathan Chapman trail. •Two members, Carolyn Nelson and Jerry Bates, attended the 150TH anniversary of the Puyallup School District. •In May, 8 Society members served as hosts for the Preservation Day at Karshner Museum.

**Artifacts**

Given to the Society during this period were: •A vase handed down from Ezra Meeker, donated by Lenore Nicolet Winton. •A scrapbook telling of the history of the Fruitland Grange, donated by Bernice Rinehart. •Violette Arneson Swayne's autobiography. •An autograph book belonging to Ethyl Patzner from 1910 was also donated.

As you can see, we have been busy. As president I wish to thank each and every one who has worked so hard and contributed so much this year.

Paul Hackett, June 17, 2005

# SHHS at the Grand Ole Fair

Once again this year the South Hill Historical Society had a booth at the Puyallup Fair. We had three sessions during this year's event, Sunday and Monday, 18TH & 19TH, Thursday and Friday, 22ND & 23RD, and on the last day of the Fair, Sunday 25TH. Although these staggered arrangements complicated our logistics a bit, everyone had a good time spreading the word about the history of South Hill and the South Hill Historical Society.

Much remodeling has taken place at the fair grounds over the past year. Construction of the large ShowPlex building (food court, commercial exhibits & agriculture) meant the demise of the old Education building/barn complex. The Education booths now share the first floor of the Pavilion along with Campfire, 4H and Senior High Art. The Pavilion is just inside the main Gold Gate.

All the Society members who volunteered to host our booth were given tickets to enter the fair and had a choice of free parking between two lots. The Silver Lot, a bit of a hike from the fair grounds, offered shuttle service, and the Bronze Lot was just a short walk from the Gold Gate.

Let's all thank Bonnie Starkel, Dorothy Norris, Bob & Jeanni Crabb, Ward & Irene Bradley, Roy & Sheila Rinker, Olive McDonough, Bill Goelzer, Ben Peters, Carolyn Nelson, Dorothy Nelson, Charles & Maybelle Hoenhaus, Don & Mary Glaser, Richard & Joan Vosler, Ralph Thorpe & daughter, John Thun and Jerry Bates for making this year's event a success.

Bill Goelzer did all the organizing this year, thanks Bill! His detail planning and organizational skills were much appreciated. If it were not for Bill stepping up, we probably would not have had a presence at the Fair this year.

Thanks again to all our volunteers!



SHHS display at the Puyallup Fair in the Pavilion hall.

## In Memoriam

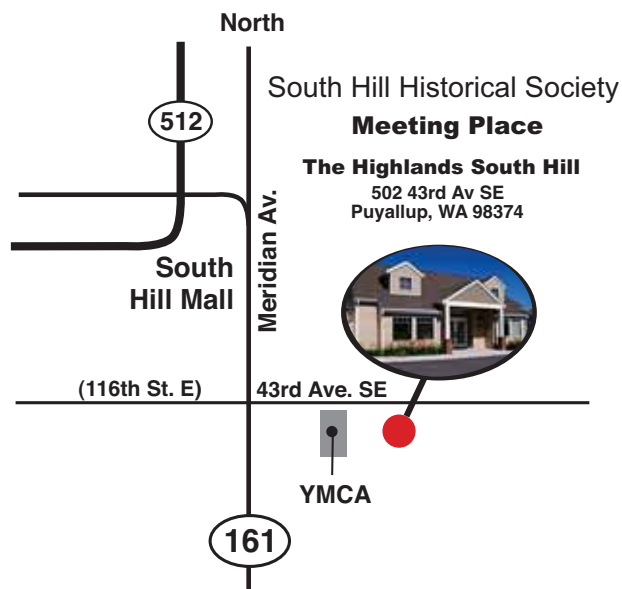
We are sorrowed over the passing of David Earl Gratzer, Stanley Gilliam, Wilma Zeiger, Emma Rockstad Glaser, Esther Johanna Allen (at the age of 104), Reed S. Hansen and his wife, and Robert P. Taylor.

<b>South Hill Historical Society Membership/Renewal Form</b>		
<b>Name</b>		
<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>	
<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Zip</b>
<b>Home E-mail Address</b>		
<b>Signature</b> _____	<b>Date</b> _____	<b>Renewal, check here</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Annual Dues: Society membership \$25.00</b>  <i>Note Please do not send cash.</i></p>		
<p>Make check or M.O. payable to South Hill Historical Society and mail with this application to:  <b>SHHS Membership, 11711 92nd AV E, Puyallup, WA 98373</b></p>		

# Where To Find Us

The South Hill Historical Society meets regularly on the **THIRD TUESDAY** of the month 11:15 AM at the Highlands in the Community Center (**No meetings July and August**). This complex is located at 502 43rd AVE SE, adjacent to and east of the Mel Korum YMCA.

We welcome you to our monthly meetings. For more information contact our president, Paul Hackett, at **(253) 845-7691**.



## South Hill Historical Society Officers

President, Paul Hackett  
Vice-President, Don Glaser  
Secretary, Joan Vosler  
Research Coordinator, Carl Vest  
Treasurer, Ben Peters  
Newsletter Editor, Jerry Bates



11711 92nd AV E  
Puyallup WA 98373

# From The Treasurer

by Ben Peters

## A warm welcome to our newest members:

Stan & Margery Salmon

## Members due for RENEWAL:

### April (Past Due)

Andy Anderson  
Mildred Dobbs  
Bill Riley  
Dorothy Gould

### July

Chuck & Maybelle  
Hoenhaus  
Don & Helen Otto  
Kevin Wimsett

### August

Clara Singer  
Richard & John Vosler

### September

Karey Hanks  
Neil & Celia Vincent  
Lenore Winton

### October

Ernest & Irene Hopp  
Christopher O'Kelly  
Ron & Lois Pearson  
Bernice Rinehart  
Lori Stock  
Margo & Joe Tucci  
W. Lynn Williams

### November

Stanley & Ila Goter  
Dianna & Fred Fritz  
William & Dori Scott

## Our Current Members

Andy Anderson  
John & Ruth Anderson  
Jim & Elizabeth Anema  
Bob Ballou  
Jerry Bates  
Ward F. Bradley  
Marilyn Burnett  
James H. Dixon  
Mildred A. Dobbs  
Linda Forsberg  
Arthur & Luverne Foxford  
Lloyd Freudenstein  
Dianna & Fred Fritz  
Don and Mary Glaser  
William (Bill) Goelzer  
Hazel Whitford Miller Goheen  
Calvin & Amy Goings  
Stanley & Ila Goter  
Dorothy Gould  
Paul Hackett  
Karey Goelzer Hanks  
James Hawley  
Cecil & Doris Herbert  
Charles & Maybelle Hoenhaus  
Ernest & Irene Hopp  
Dale Huff  
Art Larson  
Art S. & Marvella Massie  
Olive McDonough  
Laurienne Stewart Minnich  
John A. Mosolf  
Carolyn Nelson  
Dorothy Nelson

Juanita Nordin  
Mark & Dorothy Norris  
Christopher O'Kelly  
Don & Helen Otto  
Ron & Lois Pearson  
Wes & Suzy Perkinson  
Ben Peters  
Ella M. Reese  
Bill Riley  
Bernice Fisher Rinehart  
Barbara G. Ringo  
Roy and Sheila Rinker  
Vern Rockstad  
Helen Rohlman  
Carl Root  
Frank Ryser  
Stan & Margery Salmon  
William & Dori Scott  
Clara K. Singer (Wallace)  
Bonnie Nicolet Starkel  
Lori Stock  
Bill Stover  
Marge (Crosson) Swain  
Ralph & Yvonne Thorpe  
Margo L & Joe Tucci  
Carl Vest  
Neil & Celia Vincent  
Richard & Joan Vosler  
Vivian Wepfer  
W. Lynn Williams  
Kevin Wimsett  
Marilyn Larson Winterton  
Lenore Nicolet Winton  
Allen & Ellen Zulauf

To: