

HISTORY OF
JOAN AND STAN CROSS PARK
PIERCE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

December, 2007

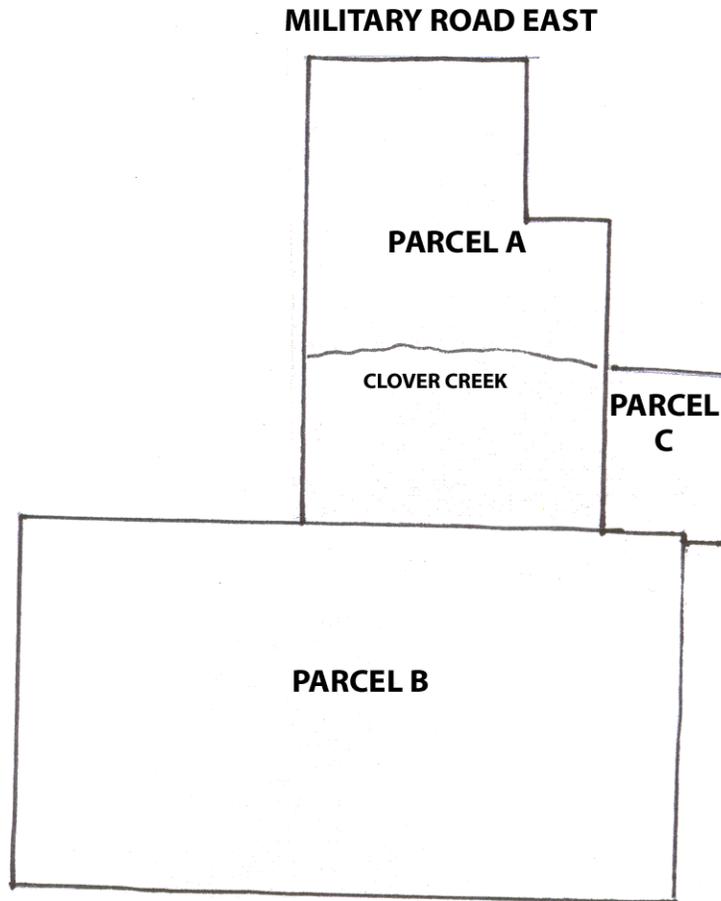
Written by Joan Cross

PARK LOCATED AT
4418 MILITARY ROAD EAST
TACOMA, WASHINGTON

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STAN & JOAN CROSS PARK

North



The land of Stan & Joan Cross Park was a part of the Frederick Meyer Land Donation Claim filed by Frederick and Louise Meyer. Later the land was owned by Frederick and Agnetta Meyer.

From 1909 to 2003, the land was owned by:

***Parcel A:* Wilhelmina Meyer Greenlaw and her family, Frank Dueber, Sutter Brothers, Stan & Joan Cross, & Pierce County Parks and Recreation.**

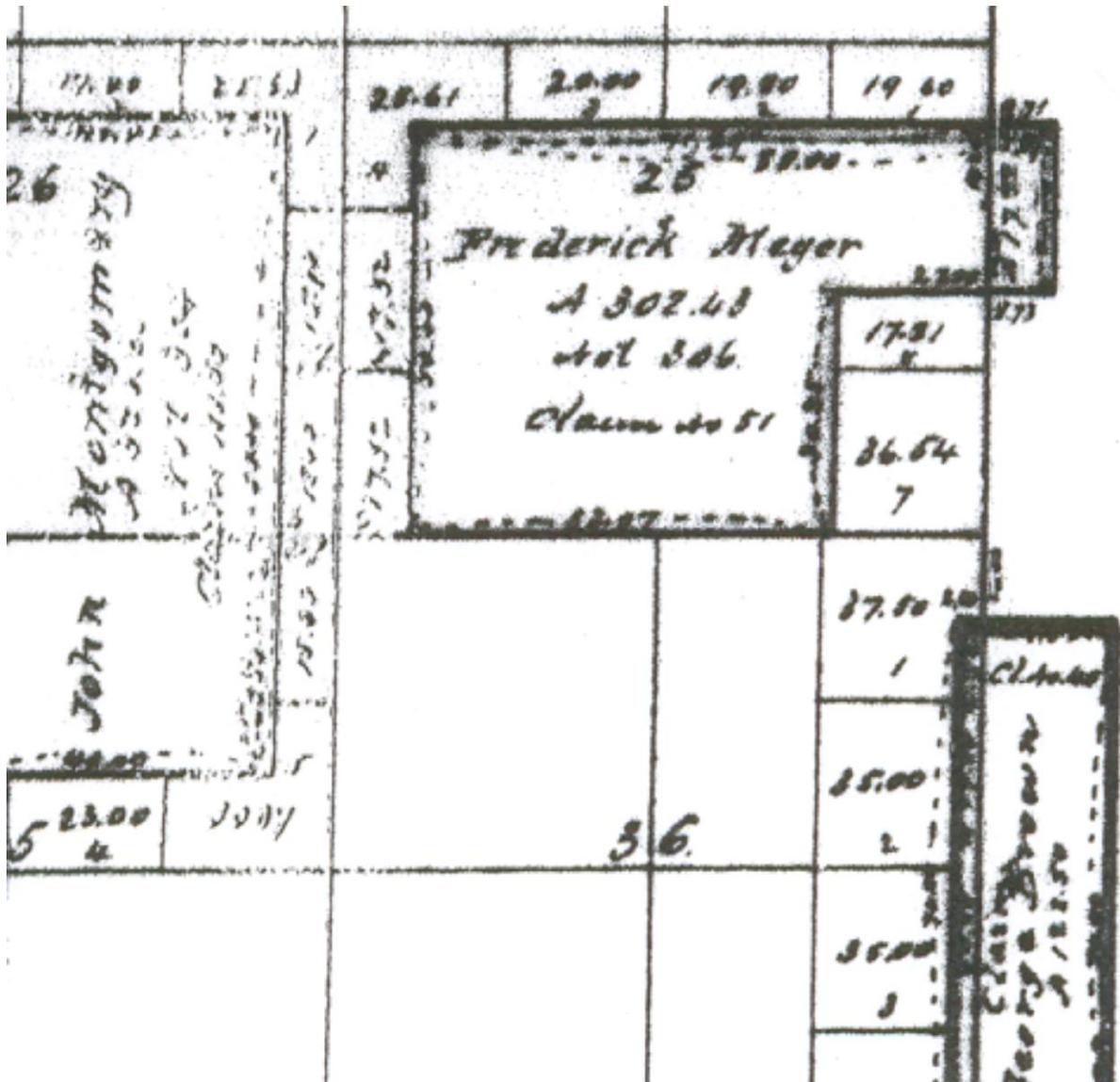
***Parcel B:* Frederick A Meyer, William F. Meyer, Fred & Frances Sutter & Stan & Joan Cross, & Pierce County Parks and Recreation**

***Parcel C:* to Sophia Meyers McAlister and her family, James & Margaret Eustace, Stan & Joan Cross, & Pierce County Parks and Recreation**

FREDERICK AND LOUISE MEYER'S LAND DONATION CLAIM

This map shows Frederick and Louise Meyer's Land Donation Claim and the shape of it. It was located Section 25 Township 19 North Range 03 East and a small piece to the East was located in the next section. Note the location of the Montgomery and Brown Land Donation Claims.

Map was found in the Tacoma Public Genealogy Library. It was completed by the Department of Interior General Land Office, March 12, 1884.



HISTORY OF STAN AND JOAN CROSS PARK

By Joan Cross

Native Americans were the first people to gather food, hunt and live on this land that is now a Pierce County regional park in the state of Washington. But by 1850, other people began to move in. However, Louie Sutter worked the land in 1930 and remembers Native Americans camping up the hill near what is now 176th Street when the salmon runs came up Clover Creek. They would come to the creek near the present day house to collect the salmon for their tribe.

The Donation Land Claim Act of 1850 created the Office of Surveyor-General of the Public Lands in Oregon Territory, and provided for the Survey, and to make Donations to Settlers of the said Public Lands in the Oregon Territory which consisted of the present-day states of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. This act brought thousands of settlers coming on the Oregon Trail into the new territory. The act granted 160 acres to every unmarried white male citizen eighteen or older and 320 acres to every married couple arriving in the Oregon Territory before December 1, 1850. In case of a married couple the husband and wife each owned half of the claim in their own name. This was one of the first laws that allowed married women to hold property in their own name. After 1854 the land was no longer free. They had to live on and cultivate their donation claim for four years before they could own the land.

The land of the Stan and Joan Cross Park is known to be a part of the Frederick Meyer Land Donation Claim. Frederick Meyer was not the first man to lay claim to the land. Henry La Bushalier and his wife Minerva Thomplin La Bushalier began a land donation claim. Henry left his family in The Dalles, Oregon and went to live on the land claim, build a house and make improvements. In July 1854, Henry left for Oregon to file his claim and to move his family to the new land. He had left Frederick Meyer four yoke of oxen to carry on improvements of the claim while he was away. It seems Frederick had help cultivate the claim since about 1853. Henry was killed by Native Americans while in The Dalles. Minerva La Bushalier was no longer interested in the land donation claim after the death of her husband. Frederick Meyer and his wife Louise file their land donation on the land left by the La Bushaliers.. Frederick had declared his intention to become a U.S. citizen in 1851. Because he had done this he was eligible to file a land donation claim even though he did not receive his certificate of citizenship until March of 1859. Louise owned the North half of the claim and Frederick owned the South half of the claim. From this description it appears the Louise Meyer owned much the land where the present day Cross Park is located. Frederick had to swear in and have witnesses that he did cultivate and live on the claim for four years or more, *“excepting a period of about eighteen months, from about the 25 day of Sept., 1855 to the 25th day of March 1857, when, on account of Indian Hostilities, it was unsafe to remain upon the claim, and after the cessation of Indian Hostilities, I returned to said claim and have continued to reside thereon till the present time,”* signed Frederick Meyer in Olympia, Washington Territory, the 31st day of January, 1873.

Frederick Meyer was born in November 1825 in Prussia, the present day Germany, and migrated to New York when he was eighteen years old. He served in the U. S. Army and saw action in the Mexican War (1846-1848). He continued his military service on board the gun boat steamer, USS Massachusetts under Major Hatheway who was to take over



Frederick Meyer, 1870

Photograph courtesy of Phillip and Lorraine (Greenlaw) Caulfied

command of Fort Vancouver from the Hudson Bay Company. After six months of sailing the ship entered the Columbia River, May 9, 1849. July 1849, Frederick went with Company M, First Artillery Regiment to establish Fort Steilacoom, Oregon Territory. Frederick helped build the first house in Steilacoom. Frederick stayed in the area and helped build a water-powered sawmill and gristmill for Thomas Chambers located at Steilacoom. The mill was at the mouth of the now Chambers Creek. He worked there many years, eventually taking over the business. He bought and gathered land as the years continued. Frederick married Frances Louise Relyea on July 10, 1853 when she was about fourteen or fifteen years old. Their children were Wihelmina, Sophia, Catherine, Frederick A, Rose, Ellen, William J., Henry, and George A. They were divorced and Frederick married Agnetta Chambers. He died in 1911 and is buried in the Old Settlers Cemetery in Lakewood, Washington.

Francis Louise Relyea Meyer, known as Louise, was born in New York about 1838. She and her sister, Mary, were indentured servants and traveled with Simpson Moses and family leaving New York by steamship, August 1851, and arrived in San Francisco, California, September 17, 1851. They left San Francisco for Olympia, Oregon Territory, October 1851. She and Frederick were married about twenty seven years when they divorced in 1880. They had nine children. Frederick was given custody of four minor children. Louise



Photo courtesy of Stan Lee

Stan Lee Believes This is a Photograph of Louise Meyer.

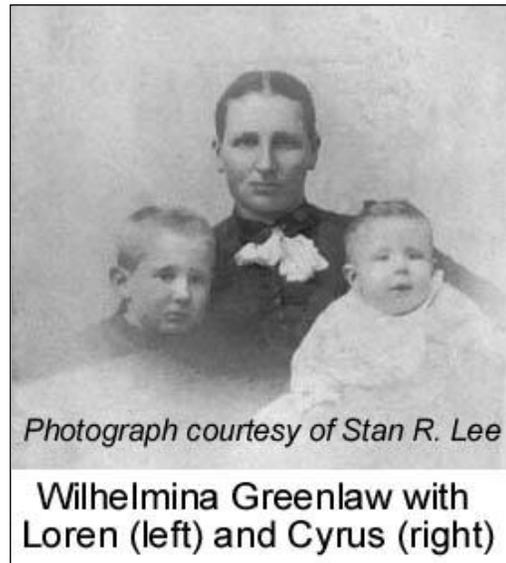
Photograph courtesy Stan Lee

and the area butcher, Phillip Hanselman moved to Illwaco, Washington. Lousie and Phillip had four children. She died in 1884 and is buried in Illwaco, Washington.

Agnetta Larson Chambers Meyer was born in Norway about 1830 and came to the U.S.A. She came over the Rockies in 1852 with the Andrew Byrd party and nine wagons and sixty head of cattle. Agnetta married Thomas McCutcheon Chambers in 1853. His previous wife, Latitia, had died in 1852 at Fort Steilacoom. Thomas owned mills where Frederick Meyer worked. The present Chambers Creek was named for Thomas Chambers. Thomas died in 1876. Frederick Meyer and Agnetta Chambers were married in 1881. January 3, 1893 Tacoma Light and Power Company paid Agnetta and Frederick \$5,000 to divert water from Clover Creek and into a flume line along the creek. Tacoma Light and Power Company never developed this flume line. In 1909, Agnetta and Frederick Meyer divided their land and sold it to their children for one dollar. Cross Park land was divided between, Frederick A. Meyer, Wilhelmina Meyer Greenlaw, and Sophia Meyer McAlister. Agnetta fell and broke her hip and died a week later on December 24, 1911, just six months after her husband Frederick Meyer had died.

Wilhelmina Mary Meyer was born September 10, 1854 in the Territory of Washington to Frederick and Louise Meyer. She married Amos C. Greenlaw, March 16, 1870 in what is now Spanaway, Washington. (*Washington became a state in 1889*) Wilhelmina was 15 years old and Amos was about 33 years old. Amos had been married twice before and Wilhelmina helped raise his daughter, Charlotte. He was born June, 1837 and died in 1895 just a few months after his and Wilhelmina's tenth child, Minnie, was born. The other children born in this union were Mary, Lustrous, Nettie, Amos, Ruby, Leonard, Loren, Cyrus and John. They lived on land they bought on the Brown donation claim.

Wilhelmina managed the farm and raised her children. December 24, 1909 she bought for one dollar, a parcel of land (*see parcel "A" on map, page 2*) from her father and stepmother. Was it a Christmas gift? She died almost four years later in 1913 and is buried next to Amos in the Steilacoom Masonic Cemetery. The Mesker Maps show the property remained with the Greenlaw name in 1924, but by 1930 Frank Dueber owned it.



Photograph courtesy of Stan R. Lee

Wilhelmina Greenlaw with Loren (left) and Cyrus (right)



"Amos C. & Willa Greenlaw" Family at a reunion picnic, on August 5th, 2007.

Photograph courtesy of Stan Lee

Frederick Augustus Meyer was born in 1861 in what is now Spanaway, Washington. He married Rosie Hefty in 1888. She was from Switzerland. Rosie and Frederick A. had one son William Frederick born about 1891. Frederick A. owned about 660 acres. Fifty two acres of this was part of the Frederick Meyer Land Claim his father, Frederick and step mother, Agnetta sold him for one dollar on December 24, 1909. Forty acres of this land is where Stan & Joan Cross Park is located. (*Check park map, parcel B on page 2*)



Frederick A. Meyer, Photo Courtesy of Stan Lee

The other 12 acres is what is now Natches Trail Preserve. Frederick A. lived on land by Clover Creek School. He cleared the land, sold timber, and farmed. He donated land for a new schoolhouse in 1897 and built the first schoolhouse. Clover Creek Elementary School sits on this land today. Frederick A. Meyer served as clerk of the early Clover Creek School District from 1866 to 1888. His sister in law, Haddie, was hired as the first teacher and taught Frederick A. Meyer's son, William and grandson, Marvin. Frederick A. died in 1945.

William F. Meyer married Mamie Murphy and lived on land near William's father Frederick A.'s home. They had a son Marvin. William inherited all of his father's land. They milked about 40 cows on their dairy. William F. sold the 40 acres the park is now on to Fred and Francis Sutter in about 1945. Marvin Meyer and his father William trapped muskrats and mink along Clover Creek. William F. died in 1967. Much of this information was given by Marvin Meyer.



Photograph courtesy of Stan Lee
Mr. and Mrs. William Meyer



Photograph courtesy of Stan Lee
Bill Mahon, George Mahon,
William Meyer, Frederick A.
Meyer

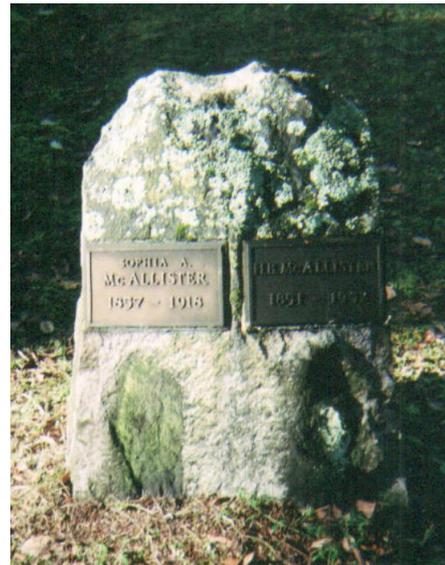


Frederick A. Meyer Homestead Near What is Now
Clover Creek School
Photograph courtesy of Stan Lee



Mrs. Frederick A. Meyer
Photograph courtesy of Stan Lee

Sophia Ann Meyer was born in August 1857 in Washington Territory in the settlement of Steilacoom. She married Hiram Baker McAlister on December 8, 1875. Hiram worked as a grocer in 1900. He died on December 8, 1932. Their children were John Wesley, Mary, Anna, and Ira Donald. Sophia Meyer McAlister received land from the Frederick Meyer Land Donation Claim from her father Frederick and her stepmother Agnetta for one dollar. This land was along what is now Military Road E.. It was a dirt road named Reed Road. A portion of the land is now Stan and Joan Cross Park. (See park map on page 2, parcel C) Sophia's family owned some of this land until 1946 or 1948 when they sold to James and Margaret Eustace. Sophia died on April 30, 1918. She and Hiram are buried in the Old Settler Cemetery in Lakewood, Washington.



Sophia & Hiram McAlister's
Head Stone
Photograph courtesy of Stan Lee

James Eustace came from a local pioneer family. The old homestead consisted on 640 acres in what is now the Industrial Park of Frederickson. Eustace Road in Frederickson is named for one of James ancestors. He was born August 8, 1913 in Everett, Washington and died January 1, 1999. James wife, Margaret was born in Seattle, Washington on September 13, 1911 and died January 28, 1999, just 27 days after her husband died. Margaret was proud of her Scottish ancestry. Her mother, Bella, was born in Scotland and lived with the Eustace family. Jim and Margaret's first home on the land they bought from the McAlister's was a log house until about 1960 when Jim and Margaret moved a new home on the place. The log house remained until the 1970s. Jim was a steamfitter and work for the Tacoma School District. He later was the business agent for the steamfitter's union. Jim and Margaret had two sons, James and Richard. The family lived off their land raising chickens, ducks, goats, cows, pigs, and a huge garden. Jim had built a bridge across Clover Creek so the animals could feed on the grass on the site that is now part of Stan & Joan Cross Park. Margaret canned from the garden well past her eightieth birthday. Young James and Robert made spending money by picking pine cones and getting bark from the Cascadia trees. The two boys had an enjoyable childhood playing and fishing in the creek and in the winter skating on the ice. The average sized trout was 14 inches long. They did catch one that was 17 inches long. Jim and Margaret were active in the community. Margaret was known for sharing her baked goods. She was especially known for her hand dipped chocolate candy. They were charter members of the Frederick Clover Creek Community Council.

Mayflower Dairy came to the community when Louis Sutter Sr., his wife Anna, Anna's mother Anna Doeber and Anna's brother, Frank Dueber bought land from the Meyers, Greenlaws and others. Louis and Anna Sutter brought with them their teen age sons, Louis, Francis, and Fred Sutter. At one time the Sutter family had over 413 acres. According to the 1930 Federal Census the family was here in the dairy business. The dairy was established sometime between 1924 and 1930. It was probably closer to 1930. The Frederickson Community old timers believe Frank Dueber and Louis Sutter, Sr. built the first section of the barn at this time.(Page 2 parcel A) It was the milking parlor that had 50 stanchions. The 110 ton hay capacity storage addition was built later, while the dairy business was going strong. The two additions are joined together to make one barn. Here they milked at least 50 cows twice a day by hand. Marvin Meyer said when he was a boy he would come strip milk for the dairy. He was paid 10 cents an hour. The raw milk was bottled in the milk house near the barn. The dairy had a wide distribution area for the 1930's. Louie Karamon can remember Francis Sutter delivering Mayflower Dairy milk to Visitation School in South Tacoma in the 1930's.

Frank Dueber had bought the land where the dairy buildings were built. His mother Anna Dueber may have been on the deed also at one time. Anna Dueber did own some of the dairy land off from what is now 176th Street. Louis and Anna Sutter bought land across the road from the dairy buildings. They built their new brick home in 1931. It still stands and is being lived in by another family. Frank Dueber was born about 1890 and lived in the small cabin near the barn and dairy buildings. As of this writing the Frank Dueber home still stands. He remained a bachelor during his life. In 1930, there was very little traffic on Reed Road (Old Military Road E.) and the cattle were brought back and forth from one pasture to another. It wasn't until after the Second World War that a tunnel was built under the road. That underpass remained until the new county sewer line came to the area during in the 1990's. The dairy had irrigation rights to take water from Clover

Creek from an 1858 permit obtained by Frederick and Louise Meyer. The Cross family kept up this permit until the land was sold to Pierce County. The Mayflower Dairy closed its operation in the mid 1950s.

Anna and Louis Sutter were married about 1907 when Anna was 20 and Louis was 33. Anna was born in Arkansas and Louis was born in Switzerland. Their son Louis F. (Louie) was born November 10, 1909 and died December 27, 1993 in Thurston County, Washington. He was very proud of his Swiss heritage. Louie worked on the dairy as a young man and helped his brothers in the land clearing business. He served in the United States Navy during World War II and won awards as a wrestler in the navy. He was wounded in the war and after many surgeries remained a disabled veteran. In his later years he was the land watchmen for Stan & Joan Cross. Louie lived in a trailer home by the barn for many years and about 1989, he moved spending his last years in a nursing home in Mckenna, Washington. Louie never married. Louie and his brother Francis raised a big garden and were known for their apple cider and apple jack. The neighborhood children could fish in Clover Creek on the dairy land if they asked for permission. If they did not get permission they were asked to leave. Many adults today have pleasant memories of fishing there when they were children.

Louie's younger brother Francis (Frank or Fraun) was born June 5, 1911 and died December 26, 1990 in Thurston County, Washington. Francis and his wife Vivian lived on the former dairy land near where the barn is located and later moved across Reed Road (Military Road) and adjacent to his parents brick house. They lived here until about 1990. They had one son, Mark. Francis worked the dairy and was one of the milkmen that delivered milk. The dairy trucks were parked along Reed Road in the long garage that is still standing as of this writing. When the dairy shut down Francis was in the land clearing business and later worked for the Columbia Powder Company that was located on 176th Street near what is now Canyon Road. The powder company had a couple of explosions and Francis was injured in one of the explosions. Vivian loved to ride horses. Her last horse was on the place until 1973. Vivian was born January 11, 1921 and died December 25, 1995 in Thurston, County. Francis and Vivian's son Mark lived in Thurston County with his family and brought his parents and his uncle Louie to be near him when they could no longer care for themselves. The month of December from the years, 1990 to 2001 were not good for Mark, as his mother, father and two uncles died on or near Christmas day.

Frederick (Fred) Sutter was born October 11, 1915 and died in Florida on December 21, 2001. Fred married Frances and had two daughters, Frances and Annette. They live across the street from the dairy buildings on the corner of now 38th Street and Old Military Road. They built a large home on their land adjoining his brother Francis. Fred and his wife, Frances were divorced and Fred married several more times. He had twin daughters, Racheal and Resham, born about 1974. He was also divorced from the twin's mother and raised the twins on a horse ranch in Oregon. Fred worked on the dairy in his early years, but he also had many other occupations. He went to college and became a teacher, a school administrator at the old Woodland School District, and he was an attorney. Fred and his brothers were known for their work with dynamite in demolishing building, bridges and clearing land of tree stumps. Marvin Meyer tells the story of Fred going to an Army surplus auction about 1948 and bidding on a large military bull dozer. He made arrangements to get a truck to carry the bull dozer to the dairy, but to his

surprise he had also bought the truck the bull dozer was sitting on. That was the beginning of the Sutter Brothers land clearing business. They had done some land clearing for neighbors before with their small tractors and their blasting knowledge. They kept the dynamite in an “igloo” north of the brick house their parent had built. There is an old crane still on the park property as of this writing. Much of the land in the area was cleared by the Sutter brothers. Fred spent his last years near one of his daughter’s home in Florida. The Sutter brothers gave Fred’s daughters, Frances and Annett, each a plot of land that was once part of parcel A. (page 2)



Mayflower Dairy Hay & Milking Barn
Photograph courtesy of Joan Cross
 2007



Stanchions in the Mayflower Dairy’s
 Milking Barn
Photograph courtesy of Joan Cross
 2007



Frank Dueber’s Home
Photograph courtesy of Joan Cross
 2007



Mayflower Dairy Milk Truck’s Garage
Photograph courtesy of Joan Cross
 2007

Stanley (Stan) and Joan Cross bought 22 ½ acres of land and the old dairy buildings from Fred, Frances, Vivian, and Louis Sutter (parcel A, page 2) and 40 acres from Fred & Francis Sutter, (parcel B, page 2) on September 14, 1973.

This was a rural area in 1973. There were nearly 60 vacant acres along 176th Street just east of the park land, where Stan and Joan grazed their cattle. It was still owned by the Sutter family. There was vacant land across the street from the barn and Canyon Road

ended at Old Military Road. In 1973 a horse ranch was located off from Canyon Road between 160th Street and Old Military Road. The boy scout troops from Camp Curran hiked down along Canyon Road and would camp out on the Cross property.

Stan was born in Montana, and lived on a large ranch with his parents and siblings. He came to Pierce County with the United States army in 1959. After serving in the United States army, Stan worked at Gov Mart discount store and attended the University of Puget Sound receiving a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration and Masters Degree in School Administration. He served 32 years as a teacher, coach, and school administrator in the Puyallup Public School District. Much of this time he was vice principal and principal of Gov. John R. Rogers High School. The last 10 years of his career was spent in the central office as Director of Secondary Education. He retired in 1996 and now works part time for the Western Washington Fair as the Superintendent of the Education Building.



Kyle, Stan, Kent, Kurt, Joan Cross
1974.

One Year After Buying The Farm.
Photograph courtesy of Joan Cross

Stan and Joan met in Colorado Springs, Colorado, continued their courtship in Pierce County and were married in 1960. To this union three sons, Kurtis, Kent and Kyle were born. Stan and Joan have been committed to a life time of community and professional service and have served on many boards and committees.

Joan was born in Western Nebraska and also raised on a large cattle and wheat ranch in Nebraska. She graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Education from the University of Northern Colorado, and moved to Tacoma, Washington to teach second grade at McKinley Elementary School in 1959. Joan taught the primary grades in her 24 years teaching career.

In 1973, Stan and Joan purchased sixty two and one half acres from the Sutter family. In 1984, they bought about two and one half acres (parcel C, page 2) from James and Margret Eustace. They raised beef cattle and at one time had as many as sixty head of cattle counting cows, calves and steers. Stan spent his weekends building fences, caring for animals, repairing buildings and property and went every night to feed the cattle, horses and chickens. Many nights were spent nursing a cow trying to deliver a calf, or repairing a fence. Stan's brother, Gary Cross helped him in the earlier years. Stan, Joan and family, Gary and his family spent many hours working and playing on the farm. The children played in Clover Creek, fishing, boating, and exploring just as children did down through the years. They rode horses and played in the grass that was taller than they were. They learned to enjoy and appreciate nature and all its wonder. Kurtis Cross married his bride, Jill in a beautiful garden wedding along the creek. The next generation, Stan & Joan's young grandchildren, enjoyed the beautiful land, nature and farm animals,

especially riding horses. In 1991, Stan and Joan constructed a dream home they had designed. They hired Iver Eliason as a builder and used family and friends to assist building this home. They moved into their new home on the farm, December 23, 1991. (Parcel A page 2)



The Home the Cross Family Built
On the Farm in 1991
Photograph courtesy of Joan Cross



The Cross Home in the Winter.
1994
Viewed from the Creek Side.
Photograph courtesy of Joan Cross



Cross Cattle on the farm in the Winter
1996
Photograph courtesy of Joan Cross



Horses on the Cross Farm in 1999
Photograph courtesy of Joan Cross

Kathy Waggner Hargrave lived in a mobile home on the farm along Old Military Road from 1990 to 2000. When she married Bernie Hargrave he also lived on the farm. Joe Munger lived on the farm for a couple of years. They were the farm watchmen for the Cross family. Stan and Joan had the opportunity to sell their beautiful farm to Pierce County to be developed into a public park in the Frederickson Community for the people of Pierce County in July, 2003. A contract was signed between Pierce County and Stan and Joan Cross that this land would be a public park and the park's name would be, "Stan and Joan Cross Park".



Clover Creek on Stan & Joan Cross Park
Photograph courtesy Joan Cross



Jenna, Aaron, Jasmine, Jason Cross
2004
Photograph courtesy Joan Cross



View of Mount Rainier from Stan & Joan Cross Park
Photograph courtesy of Joan Cross

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There were many people that helped gather information on the history of Pierce County's *Stan and Joan Cross Park*. A big Thank You goes out to them. They are:

- Stan Lee
- James Eustace
- Louis Karamon
- James Hanson
- Marvin Meyer
- Carl Woods
- Sunny Johnson
- Tacoma Library, Northwest & Genealogy Room's personal
- Stewart Title Company of Seattle

SOURCES

- Frederick Meyer Land Donation Claim records and citizen records were found at the Tacoma Library, Northwest Room/Genealogy in the book "*Washington Territory Donation Land Claims*" Published by the Seattle Genealogy Society, Seattle, Washington in 1980.
- Information was found in 1915, 1930, 1936, 1941, 1951 and 1965 *Mesker Maps*, mapping land ownership of Section 25 Township 19 North, Range 03 East.
- Sketch of Sutter Property by the Sutter Brothers, Section 24, Township 19 North, Range 3 East, was a source of information on Sutter land.
- 1887, 1910, and 1930 Federal census records of Spanaway Precinct, Pierce, and Washington were used to find relationships, birthplaces and dates.
- Land records for Stan & Joan Cross Park in 1909, 1910, 1973, 1984, and 2003 were supplied by Stewart Title Company of Seattle.
- A copy of the original 1893 contract of the flume line between Tacoma Light and Power Company and Frederick and Agnetta Meyer was an information source.
- Information from Pierce County Auditor Office and the BLM GLO on line data.
- The Meyer Family Genealogy from *OUR FAMILY STORIES.COM* managed by James Hanson was one source for information of the Meyer Family.
- Information on families from earlier days was collected from James Eustace, Marvin Meyer, Stan Lee, Louis Karamon, and James Hanson.
- Social Security Death Index was a source of some births and death dates.