

# HISTORY NOOK

## Reverend Frank Oppermann

By: James K. Long

Sorting through an accumulation of odds and ends saved over the last 83 years I came across a New Testament given to me by my Sunday school teacher Frank Oppermann. Frank and his wife Mia owned Waldheim. However Mia built the establishment. Frank, a retired minister, taught each Sunday in the rear pews in the old Community Church in Eastsound. The church has long been torn down but it was still standing in 1949 when I last rang the church bell in the middle of the night before running off to the US Air Force.

There were probably 3 to 4 boys in the class and Frank did his best to instill some Christian ethics in us. In his Testament gift to me Frank had written all the verses necessary to save my soul. I must have been a handful. All this carefully written by hand in ink "God bless you, F. Oppermann". Wow powerful stuff. Finally I'm reading this after all these years. Frank preached on occasion, taught Sunday school, played the church organ and visited widows and elderly ladies. I always saw him walking along our dusty roads. He was slight in stature, wore glasses and always in a suit. He was probably in his middle seventies when I first met him. Some said he was a Lutheran others said an Evangelical minister. He doesn't say which in the Testament he gifted me. It was a missionary church and had been affiliated with different groups at various times. I remember Frank visiting my grandmother and both speaking German their native tongue which probably was one of the reasons



The Reverend Frank Oppermann / Contributed photo

he walked the 3 or 4 miles to visit. Frank of course had a heavy accent which got heavier when he was making a point in Sunday school. To this day I call the hill going past Waldheim Oppermann Hill.

**James K. Long**

*For the Orcas Island Historical Society.*

*(Note) Long, as a boy grew up on Orcas Island. His book, Another Day in Paradise, is available in the museum gift shop. He has many an interesting story to tell!*

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