

TUEFFERS MARK
Form 3/A
January 20, 2009

FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,
Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section
30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *			2. Date of Event Requiring Statement	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol	
Â TUEFFERS MARK			(Month/Day/Year)	STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/ [STSA]	
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	12/15/2008	4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer	5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)
111 N. WALL STREET				(Check all applicable)	12/23/2008
(Street)				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
SPOKANE,Â WAÂ 99201				<input type="checkbox"/> Officer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person
(City)	(State)	(Zip)		(give title below) (specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person
				Director-Golf Savings Bank	

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
Common Stock	5,000 ⁽¹⁾	I	Spouse IRA
Common Stock	5,000	D	Â
Common Stock	17,000	I	Parents shares - Mr. Tueffers has POA over these shares

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date	3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying	4. Conversion	5. Ownership	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial
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(Month/Day/Year)	Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	Ownership (Instr. 5)		
Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			
Non-Qualified Stock Option	01/31/2008 01/31/2017	Common Stock	2,000	\$ 33.17	D	Â

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
TUEFFERS MARK 111 N. WALL STREET SPOKANE, WA 99201	Â X	Â	Â	Director-Golf Savings Bank

Signatures

/s/ Daniel G. Byrne, Chief Financial Officer
Date 01/20/2009

__Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 5(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) The previous initial Form 3 filing for Mr. Tueffers on 12/23/2008 did not include shares of STSA owned by his spouse in an IRA account.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *See* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.