



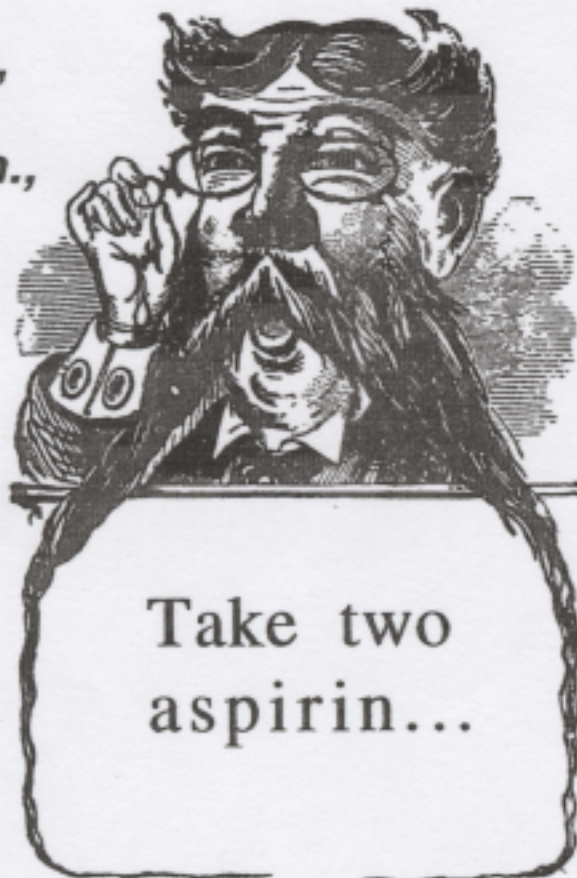
BYGONE TIMES

A Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April, 1995

Editor, Sharon Nesbit, 665-0423

Monday evening, April 17 7:30 p.m., City Hall -- A talk on pills and potions



Does an onion poultice make you cry? Fred Bridges, a volunteer

at Fort Vancouver, gives us the benefit of his research into medicines used by Native Americans, Lewis and Clark and the surgeons at Hudson Bay Company's Fort Vancouver when we meet at 7:30 p.m., Monday, April 17, in Troutdale City Hall.

(Please note: This is an evening gathering. We hold two evening meetings a year to accommodate those who cannot attend Sunday afternoon programs.)

Bridges researched medicines for a demonstration last year at the Fort. He says he'll bring along his "pill machine," a poultice and cough medicine.

This program was arranged by Maude Winning, a member of our program committee. If you have suggestions for programs next year, let Maude, Connie Purvis or Alice Wand know. We plan to set next year's program agenda soon.

Cookies (of the healthiest sort) will be provided by Sharon Nesbit and Jeral Beaty.

IN MAY -- INDIAN BASKETRY

Our May 21 meeting, 2 p.m. at Troutdale Community Park, features Mary Schlick of Mount Hood who recent wrote the book, "Columbia River Basketry." This is our annual gathering of local historical societies and our member of the year announcement.

Mark your calendars: April Proves Busy

We have a lot of things going on this month so mark these dates:

April 10, Monday

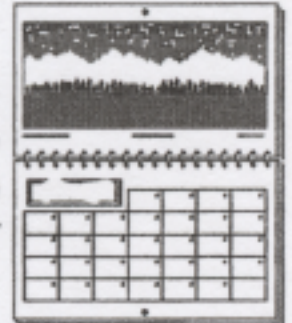
7 p.m. at the barn, Steering Committee meets to plan Ice Cream Social and Harvest Faire. All welcome.

April 17, Monday

7:30 p.m., Troutdale City Hall, a talk by Fred Bridges of Fort Vancouver, Wash.

April 29, Saturday

9 a.m. -- Bring a sack lunch and come for barn and Harlow House work day. We'll wash, scrub and sweep in readiness for our summer museum season.



2 p.m. - At the barn, a brainstorming session, or as we call it, Barnstorming. Sit down with Bob Strebin, barn exhibit chairman, to discuss what we want to see in our barn agriculture exhibit.

April 30, Sunday

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Welcome-To-May Brunch, Sam K. Cox Building, Troutdale City Park, a benefit for the barn. A lovely spread of breakfast specialties, salads,

fruits and desserts by Rich and Dorothy Kerslake. Adults: \$6, Children 6-12, \$3, Children under 6, free. Your job?

Put up the poster in this newsletter in a prominent place, or give to a friend who would like to come.



HISTORY FACT -- Troutdale was incorporated in 1907, chiefly for the purpose of controlling city saloons.



TREASURER'S REPORT

FROM PENNY BALCH (WHO, INCIDENTALLY, PASSED HER CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT'S EXAM)

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| OPERATING ACCT..... | \$ 9,774.19 |
| DED. BARN FUND..... | 616.53 |
| BARN BUILDING..... | 22,232.14 |
| ENDOWMENT FUND... | 17,805.60 |
| DIRECTOR FUND..... | 1,446.17 |
| TOTAL..... | 52,874.63 |

This report reflects the \$20,000 gift from the estate of John Nasmyth designated for the barn building fund and the creation of exhibits in the building.

A GENTLE REMINDER

John Nasmyth's gift is a reminder that a gift left in a will to our historical society is a way to leave a mark on the future.

In addition to our gifts of artifacts, photos, and other remembrances of the past, we can leave the means to preserve that heritage in a bequest to the Troutdale Historical Society.

Alex Jones left a gift from his estate to our endowment fund. John chose to designate the barn for his donation.

The words to add to a will are simple:

I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to the Troutdale Historical Society _____ percent of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate (or, alternatively, the sum of \$_____).

HOOKERS INVITED TO JUNE SOCIAL

The working title for our June 10 and 11 ice cream social is "Hookers at the Harlow House and Sinful Desserts."

We invited the rug hookers of the Portland Rug Hooking Guild to display and demonstrate their craft at the ice cream social. The sinful desserts you already know about.

Wonderful news comes from Edwin O. Ege Sanitary that they will once again sponsor an afternoon of music. "We couldn't do without their faithful support year after year," says Ellen Brothers, director.

And Ali Peret, Columbia River Jeweler, will give a \$100 gift certificate which we will offer as a raffle item to support children's activities. Watch for raffle tickets coming next month.

If you or someone you know would sponsor the other afternoon of music -- the cost is \$350 -- please call the Harlow House, 661-2164.

Our committee, led by Mona Mitchoff, meets on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the barn.

Want to help with brunch?

We can always use donations of desserts and salads and help with serving at the April 30 brunch. If you are willing to offer a dessert or salad, or a morning of volunteering, call and leave your name with Florence Baker, 665-9656.

And thank you right now to Rich & Dorothy Kerslake and their family members, who make, cook and shop and serve for this event as their annual gift to our organization.

HISTORY FACT -- Buxton Street is known as Hungry Hill, likely because workers used to trudge up the hill for lunch.

GIFTS TO THE BARN FUND

In memory of
John Nasmyth
Bob & Vera Strebin, Shirley Yost

In memory of
Alice Kerslake
June Nasmyth
In memory of
Lee Irwin
June Nasmyth
In memory of
F. Jean Allegre
Bob & Vera Strebin

TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of
Arthur Toyooka
Bob & Vera Strebin
In memory of
Lee Irwin
Bill & Marie Stone, City of Troutdale
In memory of
Herbert W. White Jr.
Charlotte White

And thank you to these folks

Tucking a bit extra in dues envelopes for our general fund were: Kyle Fritzsinger, Ivan & Sally King, Betty Bohall, Patt Dempster, Arthur & Roberta Matches, Anne Walker, Ginger Harlow Allen, Harry & Ione Clair, Arline Silfberg and Dominic & Phyllis Balesteri, who gave their donation in memory of the Helming family.

We received as well, a donation of a Canon AP typewriter from Richard & Mary Patterson.

A thank you to Dave Ripma, who has donated storage space, as well as to Steve Lehl, Steve Kaufman and Dick Jones for moving items to that location.

Continuing a
HISTORY OF THE OLD POTATO SHED

Alice Wand -- Jan. 15, 1995

(Note: Alice Wand researched the potato shed that is now Caswell Gallery for our January meeting. The first half of this history appeared in our March newsletter)

At the peak of its operation the Troutdale Seed Potato Association, with M.B. McKay as marketer, shipped 1.4 million sacks of potatoes from the Troutdale area. They were a mix of both potatoes for food purposes and seed potatoes.

McKay sorted his potatoes into food and seed stock. What didn't go for seed went for potato stock, Wand said. "I interviewed one veteran who came home from the war to raise seed potatoes in our area. The last year he raised them he got \$1.25 per sack. It cost 25 cents for the sack and 25 cents to get them into storage. So that left him 75 cents for seed, fertilizer and a year's work. He quit."

Some of you folks, if anybody here knew Mr. McKay, you probably saw him as a rather serious person. I've been told that he did have a dry humor. One time he had a moustache and he shaved half of it off. It took his wife three days to see that it was gone.

Responding to comments and questions from the audience, Wand added: The potato shed building had dirt floors when it was built, concrete floors were added later. Carrots were stored in the building at one point. During potato storage the floor was dirt with a sort of grated pallet on which to store potatoes.

In regard to a question about wages, potato pickers earned 10 cents a sack, Wand said. "You had a belt around your waist and you spread your legs and pulled the sack and there would be 60 pounds in it and you got 10 cents. Some of the people that worked for us put dirt and rock in. The wages, I talked to one man who helped the Seidls and he said, 'I didn't get a dollar. I think I got about 75 cents.' I talked to another lady who sorted potatoes down there and she said, 'I got 60 cents an hour for sorting potatoes.'"

"It was almost totally dark in here," Wand related, "Oh Yes, I did talk to a lady, my sister-in-law, who worked here. She said 'the only thing I remember about the potato shed was that there were two large doors on either end where farmers could bring the potatoes and put them in. There was a small door in it. We opened the small door and hurried in and closed it to keep it cool. It was cold and damp and dusty.'"

Wand estimated that the last year potatoes were stored in the building was 1961, according to her research in the M.B. McKay papers at the Troutdale Historical Society. She said her late husband, Ig Wand, was more involved in the process than she since she was occupied with her children.

Comment from the audience: John Strebin's daughter: "My dad brought us here. I must have been less than 10. He brought us here and we climbed on the big pile of potatoes. It was enormous. We probably weren't supposed to."

Wand: "Our next to the youngest son talks about being down there with his dad. Our oldest son told us that the engineer would bring the train--this is the best track-side potato warehouse in the west-- there were five doors and they could have five cars...Jerry also told me they would drop the cars off. They wouldn't drive on to the next door. Dad would say, 'Go out and take this metal bar and work it under the wheels to move it (the rail car) that bit.' The man that quit raising potatoes that I told you about, said he shipped 340 sacks in one day from the Troutdale area."

Wand concluded that just as M.B. McKay had a dream for the building, so does Rip Caswell, "the other man I mentioned having a dream. Troutdale is fortunate to have such a lovely art gallery and foundry. We're happy to see the old shed in use again."

**WELCOME ABOARD
DIRECTORS CLUB**

Jack Burns, founder of Burns Bros., is a longtime friend of our society and proves it once again with a letter signing up for a Director's Club membership:

"I thought I was a member of the society but I guess we have not been, so I am sending a check for \$75 for the Director's Club membership for my wife, Gwen, and me on our 49th year of marriage."

Not necessary, but much appreciated nonetheless. Congratulations to Jack and Gwen Burns.

Also in the Director's Club, which supports Director Ellen Brothers, are: Evelyn Jacobson, Bob & Mona Mitchoff, Sam & Nancy Cox, Jeanne Pulliam, David Ripma, Beverly Welker, Patricia O'Brien, Marge & Ed Schmunk, Lorraine Mackey, and Bob & Dorothy Sturges.

MEMBERSHIP GIFTS

Theora Davis and Deanna Weinbaum are members thanks to a gift from Evelyn Jacobson. Joe & Audrey Barnett received a gift membership from Edna Alexander. Jeanne & Rick Berg are members due to the generosity of Margery Smith and Joe & Alice Railey are new members because of a gift membership from June Nasmyth.

**BLACKSMITH FORGE
NEW ACQUISITION**

About 25 years ago Gresham funeral director traded a funeral to Annie Zeek for her husband, in exchange for Zeek's husband's blacksmith outfit, a forge, work table, anvil and tools.

After Lew Carroll's death in January, Florence Carroll gave the items to our society. We will share these artifacts with our neighbors at the Crown Point Country Historical Society.

COINS STUDIED

Ruth Sundling mentioned in a November that, as a small child growing up near the Harlow House, she dug up an odd mix coins in a sandy bank on Beaver Creek.

She recently brought those coins to study. They are an interesting mix of Canadian, English and American with one Chinese, one French and one Norwegian. Of small denominations, the biggest, very well worn, are American half-dollars. Dates range from 1852 to 1909.

They raise more questions than answers. A lost coin collection? Dropped by travelers who camped near the creek? We are arranging to have the coins photographed before we return them to her.

A GEM FROM OUR APRIL MEETING ON WEATHER: Crystal Bayley said her father described the wind as "blowing the you-know off the watchmacallit."

**TROUTDALE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
104 S.E. KIBLING STREET
TROUTDALE, OR 97060**



**WELCOME-TO-MAY
BRUNCH, APRIL 30
TROUTDALE CITY PARK**

**BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TROUTDALE, OR
PERMIT NO. 5**