

BYGONE TIMES

A Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

November, 1999

Caboose hoisted into place...



This photo, courtesy of Cameron Hardy of the Gresham Outlook shows our new/old caboose being lifted from the siding at for placement on a set of rails and track in front of the Troutdale Rail Depot. Union Pacific Car No. 25748 is the 48th caboose in a series of 50 model CA-10 cabooses built by the International Car Co. of Kenton Ohio in 1975. One of the last cupola cabooses built, it served Union Pacific as a general purpose caboose for 22 years before being retired to Swan Island two years ago.

Nov. 14 meeting is all about rails and trains

It was meant to be that we got our caboose in time for our Nov. 14, 2 p.m. program on railroading in Troutdale city hall. This meeting is an interview with Lois Zirk who worked as a young woman in remote railroad outposts in the Columbia River Gorge during World War II.

Lois has a set of remarkable pictures of those days and tales of kindness by veteran railroaders to a young girl who said goodbye to her weeping mother in the Midwest and went West to work on the railroad.

Add to that a chance to see our caboose -- come at 1 p.m. an hour before the meeting or stay after for tours. We'll have our depot museum open as well, so if you have little, or big, kids with train addictions, this is a good spot for early Christmas shopping.

Also on sale at the depot, our Troutdale year 2000 calendar and copies of our pictorial history book for gifting.

Calendar

November/December

Board of Directors Meeting

Wed., Nov. 3, 7 p.m.

In the bam.

Girls Been Workin'' on the Railroad

Sun., Nov. 14, 2 p.m.

Live interview in Troutdale City Hall.

Board of Directors Meeting

Wed., Dec. 1, 7 p.m.

In the bam.

Harlow House Decorating

Wed., Dec. 1, 9 a.m.

Christmas at the Harlow House

Sat., Dec. 4, noon to 4 p.m.

In Memory

Donald (Chim) Howell
 from
Viola & Walter Nasmyth
Clover & Herbet
Nasmyth

Harlow Canyon restored, planted

The canyon area behind the Harlow House is in the capable hands of three different crews racing Mother Nature to complete the restoration project before winter rains.

David Evans and Associates, a public works contractor hired by the City of Troutdale, is providing one crew, as is Multnomah Youth Conservation Job Training, part of the Multnomah Education Service District. Also taking part is a group of high school aged workers from CRUE, Crew Restoring Urban Environment.

The results are apparent. The entire area that flooded behind the Harlow House in 1996 (in the old Harlow fish ponds) has been restored with a catch pool and a meandering stream reinforced with immense cedar logs. Native trees and shrubs have been planted and grass has been seeded.

As part of this restoration, Troutdale Grade School teacher Barb Moritay's fifth graders will monitor plant growth and birds and animals in the canyon. Erosion monitoring is also part of their project. Val Lantz, Troutdale parks director, says it is a great project for students because it is within reasonable walking distance of the school.

Still to be rebuilt is the bridge in the upper canyon. When that is done the trail -- called Robin's Way in honor of Robin Dix and the Dix family whose farm was once at the top --- will be reopened. The project has also allowed us to place the earthen berm to hold the Burns Rest Stop, a bench overlooking the area in memory of Jack Burns of Burns Bros. truck stops.

We want toys for Christmas

Mary Bryson and the Harlow House decorating committee would like to borrow old toys for a Christmas exhibit. Call 661-2164

Society reaps rewards for 60th (gulp) birthday



In lieu of birthday gifts to mark a historic birthday, Sharon Nesbit's family suggested

friends offer a gift in honor of her becoming an 'artifact', to the Troutdale Historical Society.

Donations were came from:

Bruce & Helen Towsley, Mary & Dennis Bryson, Bonnie Irwin, Barbara & Robert George, Sheryl & Max Maydew, Karen Martinek & Brian Martin, Jack & Lila Verfurth, Kay Struckman, Robert & Ilona Skipper, Alfred & Joyce Stoeckel and Robert & Mona Mitchoff.

October a month of history on tour

Walking history tours and other events filled October. Sharon Nesbit and Paul Thalhofer conducted two walking history tours for Sweetbriar School fourth grade classes. In addition to visiting the depot and the Harlow House and learning the history of downtown Troutdale, the kids deliberate issues of city government in council chambers at Troutdale City Hall.

Mayor Thalhofer leads them on a government exercise, this year deciding if Troutdale should have a skate board park.

Also in October, we led a special tour as a thank you for all the good things Tad's Chicken N' Dumplings has done for our organization. Judy Jones, her family, and a gang of Tad's employees and friends took a walking tour through Troutdale ending at the barn with chili dogs and congratulations and heartfelt speeches. Many thanks to Cindy Hammond, Sadie Riley, Mona Mitchoff, Marge and Ed Schmunk and the others who kept this party on the move.

Mary Bryson also hosted a Cub Scout group in late October. We calculate at least 150 or so guests, just in October.

Troutdale alums to school: "My, how you've grown."

Oct. 17 marked the return of approximately 50 graduates and teachers to Troutdale Grade School. The Troutdale Historical Society's annual grade school reunion was held at the school for the first time, allowing former schoolmates to cruise the halls without fear of being sent to the principal's office.

Len Otto presided. Otto, a former student and also a former teacher at the school, began the meeting with reminiscences about the building. Introductions and stories quickly followed.

Among those teachers remembered, Helen Fehrenbacher was a favorite of all who were in her classes. Crystal Bayley, society member and Troutdale Grade School Teacher for 30 years, attended and renewed acquaintances with several former students. She and her students recounted many stories as they pored over photos dating from 1946 to 1976.

Society member Bob Dix remembered welcoming new principal Mr. Leslie Bass with a candy and nut shower. According to Dix, Mr. Bass was unaware of this custom and was not particularly happy about being the recipient of one. Bass was also remembered by several former students as having crepe soled shoes so he couldn't be heard as he approached a "naughty" students.

Members attending the reunion were amazed at how much the school has grown. Several began their Troutdale Grade School careers in the old wooden building that was replaced in 1926. On site now are several portable classrooms to contain the ever-increasing school population.

Special thanks to Jan Vandiver for supplying refreshments and festive decorations, to Louise Dix and some mystery cookie bakers who brought treats, and to all those generous Troutdale Grade School "kids" who put money in the hat to help off-set the expense of holding the meeting in the building. A total of \$65 was collected, a major portion of the \$90 expense for the custodian who worked on Sunday so we could meet t the school.

Mary Bryson

Adrienne Clausen, 663-0895, is coordinator of volunteers at the Harlow House and Depot. Though our depot is officially closed for the winter, we do have volunteers on some days and would like it open every weekend.

Curator's Corner

by Mary Bryson

We are so lucky to have society members who remember the society when they clean out attics and basements, and when they just come across something they think might be valuable to our collection.

Recent additions to the collection include a print of a pen and ink and water color drawing rendered by member Edna Ellis's grandfather, Adolf Aschof. Mr. Aschof was the first forest ranger of the Mt. Hood National Forest and was appointed by Pres. Theodore Roosevelt. The drawing portrays Mr. Aschof entering Government Camp on horseback.

Additions to our farm collection include two Snider Farms frozen strawberry boxes (unfortunately they are empty) donated by Donna Burlingame. They will be featured when we have a farming exhibit in our barn museum.

Finally, Mary Kuni donated a wonderful Singer Sewing Machine book designed for the child seamstress. It is being featured in our display of sewing collectibles.

Bev Lewis DeAngelo added an antique quilt to our quilt display. She loaned us a quilt hand-pieced by her great grandmother, in 1871. It is a flower basket pattern and is displayed in the Harlow House bedroom.

Thanks to all.

Namedroppers

Thanks to **Mario Ayala** who donated several weekends in September to operate the Depot rail museum and store...To **Jerry Hybskmann** who spent many hours organizing our shop in the barn...to **Rebecca Beachell** for sharing her art in our year 2000 calendar of Troutdale...to **Split Diamond Media** for designing our 2000 calendar cover...to **Bob and Louise Dix** for contributing to our fund for a full-time director for this year and next... to the **Frank J. Schmidt Family Charitable Foundation** for a donation to our barn that came just as Frank Schmidt's Red Sunset Maple was turning red in the front yard of the Harlow House...and **RBI Corporation** for a donation...welcome to **Jim & Nina Kight** and **Ed & Phyllis Thiemann** who joined the Director's Club...to new member, **Susan Wilson**...to Harvest Faire sponsors, **Walsh & Sons Trucking**, **Reynolds Metals** and **Handy Bros. Service, Inc.**...to **Joe Rossi** at **Rossi farms** for donating mini pumpkins... **Multnomah County Animal Control** for bringing a truck and free samples...to **Tad's** and **Judy Jones** for green beans for the Harvest Faire dinner...to **Michele Rosenberger** and **Francis Claus** of Troutdale City Parks for their help...to **Dave Kauth** and the **Boy Scouts** for their work in clean up...And how about these guys, the Harvest Faire volunteers: **Adrienne Clausen**, **Mike Dubesa**, **Bob Strebin**, **Mona Mitchoff**, **Dave Ripma**, **Mario Ayala**, **Marge & Ed Schmunk**, **Connie & Jeff Van Cleave**, **Marion Cook**, **Martha Booheister**, **Sharon Petri**, **Cindy Hammond**, **Doug Daoust**, **Denice & Frank Grande**, **Karen Jordan**, **Virginia Perry**, **Donna Hawkins**, **Margaret Maggy**, **Dale & Betty Baldwin**, **Florence Baker**, **Harvey & Betty Wieprecht**, **Cathy Van Zyl**, **Malorie Goody**, **Rebecca Marcus**, **Paul Thalhofer**, **Jody Bronkey**, **Meridith Nightengale**, **Driver**, **Laura VanAtta**, **Dennis & Frieda Ryland**, **Doris Woolley**, **Dorothy Sturges**, **Juanita Espenel**, **Lucille Tolbert**, **June Nasmyth**, **Dickie Rief**, **Penny Balch**, **Helen Wand**, **Donna Anderson**, **Heather Mitchoff**, **Dan DeGraw**, **Kris & John Fappas**, **Jean Holman**, **Sharon Nesbit** and all the pie makers, vendors and others whom we forgot to name.

Behind the Scene

by **Becky Marcus**
Office Manager

The month of October has been busy in the office. After the Harvest Faire it was time to settle in and determine what "everyday" things were to be done. While I am not exactly the Executive Director there are still many things that were taken care of by the previous directors that still needed to be completed. Someone has to do them. So I guess that's me.

Part of my October report to the Board of Directors included: the need for a THS corporate notebook for a central place for all the very important documents; I plan to look into expanding the Albertson card program; the need for a dedicated fax line which has since been done and the number is **674-2995**; I'm preparing a grant report/system for tracking; the need for a more efficiently and effective office by implementing some changes and updates; I inquired if selling Depot items over the internet had ever been explored (possible future item); I expressed problems in scheduling volunteers to assist in the Harlow House Museum and the Depot (which seems to be ongoing); I asked if the possibility of school clubs assisting as volunteers could be explored; and I presented several items regarding phone calls and messages.

I'm working on finding a new computer with more disk space and speed so I can update programs and replace some. There is also a need for a zip drive for backup purposes. There are a couple of potentials out there. Keep your fingers crossed. This may not sound like much to you or be greek, but it is very important in accomplishing the tasks of the office and securing your data.

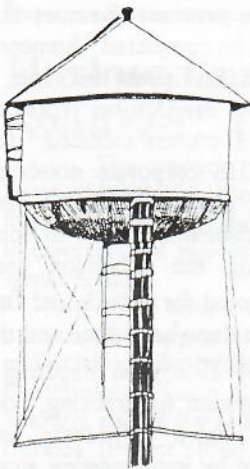
I have found in the short time I have been here that no two days are ever the same. And, that there are many people who contribute countless hours to your society. You are lucky.

I'll keep you updated on the office. Since this is the November newsletter have a great Thanksgiving.

**TROUTDALE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
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***Troutdale in the year
2000 -- a calendar***



***Troutdalians will
want this calendar***

Mary Bryson and Rebecca Beachell have created a beautiful new calendar, with sketches of Troutdale buildings.

It has been nearly 20 years since we produced a local Troutdale calendar and this one, with sketches of both new and old Troutdale buildings by Rebecca and text by Mary, is a beauty. Sketches include the depot and the Harlow House, Tad's Chicken N' Dumplings, the old Staten service station, the old Tiller hotel, the Emil Olesen House, the Troutdale methodist Episcopal Church, Sweetbrier Farm and several new buildings on Troutdale's north side.

The calendars are \$10 each, or \$12, shipped to you.

A THS display can be seen in Gresham City Hall through Nov. 19

**Lucky winners
collect prizes**

Connie Van Cleave, who was married at the Harlow House many moons ago, has grown up to become our new chair of the steering committee. This year she coordinated our Harvest Faire raffle and announced the following winners.

Mona Mitchoff won the \$50 bucks off on work from Sandy Auto Body, which is good because the Mitchoffs have a lot of cars.

Truly Wright, former Troutdale City Recorder, won a \$100 certificate from Mt. Hood Gutters, compliments of Steve Morris.

Kay Struckman won a \$50 gift certificate from Bridlewood Stables in Boring.

And Frank and Jean Driver won a lovely stay at Cedarplace Bed and Breakfast.

Membership opportunities

Treasurer needed

Penny Balch has said she would like to retire from her job as treasurer in February to do other work for our society. Thanks to Penny, we now have a system that requires oversight of a treasurer, but not nearly as much hands-on work as once was necessary. If you would like to play a role on our board of directors and oversee the management of our funds, please ask about running for the office.

Special projects

At this writing, we have several one-shot only special projects that need managing -- a cookbook is one idea. We could use a coordinator for our January meeting. And we are looking at a Lewis and Clark exhibit in our barn. If you are interested, call 661-2164.