

WE'RE HAVING A BIRTHDAY PARTY...

This month the Troutdale Historical Society is ten years old and we're celebrating with birthday cake and a few self-congratulations on Monday evening, February 20, at 7:30 p.m. in the city park recreation building.

The Hot Shots, with our own honky-tonk pianist, Laura Imthurn, will entertain. And there will be a display of Steve Kenney's historic Columbia Gorge postcards, some early-day Valentines, autograph books and an inkwell from Nathalie Wilson and other surprises.

The official business will include election of officers and, of course, payment of dues which are \$2 a person. The park museum will be open and members are particularly invited to see the work in progress on setting up displays in the new addition.

SOMETIMES IT TAKES PATIENCE...

The treasurer is noticing a lot of out-go recently because we have encountered so many priceless old photos to be copied. The amazing part of it is that we had almost given up the search for pictures taken in Troutdale prior to 1900. Suddenly in the last few months three different persons have come up with pictures taken in the 1890's.

The first of these was Frances Cameron in Milwaukie. Then Ken Cone, whose father was an extremely talented photographer, appeared with pictures of the city during its 1890s building boom. Finally, acting on a tip from Mary Wright, we visited Mr. and Mrs. J. Ross Brown in Gresham last month. The Browns produced a treasure of old pictures which we will share with the Gresham Historical Society.

Perhaps the most exciting of these are two pictures of the original Troutdale rail depot. These and a few "mystery" pictures which need identification will be displayed Monday evening. It appears that the Troutdale pictures were taken by E. Woodard of Corbett. We'd certainly like to know more about him in case there are more pictures somewhere.

Incidentally, any pictures received in the last year are available from the Gateway Portrait Studio in the Gateway Shopping Center. The negatives are stored there by Frank Clay who has given us quite a break in the cost of copying the photos. If you would like copies of some of our pictures, simply get the photo number from the picture displays in the museum and telephone Frank at 254-5579.

Also available for the first time are copies of pictures which were done for us by the Douglas County Museum in Roseburg. George Abdill, curator of that museum, has released the negatives and prints can be obtained by seeing Bert Whalen or Sharon Nesbit.

We owe a great debt to Abdill and the Douglas County museum for copying our pictures for so long at such a nominal cost. If you're in Roseburg, stop by and see the museum. It's worth the visit.

NEW GOODIES...

Last month Verden Worthington added to our collection of early-day smoking materials by donating a tin container for Camel cigarettes. Bob Kerslake brought us a fascinating contraption which, it turns out, is a laundry marker from a Chinese laundry in San Francisco. And Ray Meyer has given two excellent photos of early-day locomotives which he had copied at his own expense. These will be displayed Monday and any further information on them from our old rail hands would be appreciated.

BIG MAILING...

Finally, we have sent an unusually large mailing this month. In addition to the newsletter you'll find a brief history of our Society and a questionnaire that should help us learn more about each of our members. We're getting bigger and better but we don't want to lose track of the individuals who comprise this Society.

FEBRUARY, 1978

TEN YEARS - THE TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

It might not have happened if Glenn Otto hadn't been in jail. In 1968, (in his official capacity has mayor of Troutdale) Otto found old papers and ledgers stacked in the basement jail of city hall. It dawned on him that no local effort was being made to preserve Troutdale's history.

On Feb. 28, 1968, more than a dozen local residents decided to do something about preserving the city's colorful history by founding the Troutdale Historical Society. The city council gave \$35 to help the new society and the Troutdale Lions paid the postage for a city-wide newsletter. In March, 60 charter members had signed up. Erick Enquist (deceased) spoke at that first meeting about his Columbia River fishwheel business. The first officers were: Marilyn Oakes, president; Ray Moore (deceased), vice president; Joe Lucas, treasurer and Sharon Nesbit, secretary.

In April, the late Vic Kyle became the first to donate artifacts, an ox yoke and a set of pioneer kettles. That was the start of a mad scramble to locate places to store museum items.

In June we hosted a simple, little ice cream social as a daytime get-together for our members. Three hundred people came for ice cream, music and an old-fashioned good time. In subsequent years that simple party grew to include almost 600 people.

In 1969, Bob Sturges was president. He initiated the practice of sending monthly newsletters. During the presidency of the late Don Vorpahl in 1970, we were deep in the study of the Oregon Trail with Portland historian Clare Belsher. From 1971 to 1975, it was a matter of "keeping up with Jones." Highlights of the presidency of Alex Jones included: erection of a state historical marker in 1971 with the cooperation of L.E. (Bud) Jones from the State Highway department; two years of work from 1971 to 1973 to remodel and open a concrete block building in the city park for use as a museum; a historic and colorful ceremony in 1972 to receive a cannonball from Erickson family; the 1972 publication of a cookbook of pioneer recipes and, finally, the start of our traditional and delicious potluck dinners.

(The dinner was not really Jones' idea--the first was held to honor him for his years as president and the idea was originated by the next president, Sam Cox, who has never passed up a free meal.) Cox needed a lot of nourishment because the Nation's Bicentennial was on us in 1976 and Sam led the campaign to have Troutdale designated a Bicentennial city. It was that year that the Society spearheaded an effort to preserve, move and restore the Troutdale rail depot. We also won a second prize for our float in the Fourth of July parade at Corbett, observed the 98th birthday of the late Wiley Wilson and hauled hundreds of people through our museum.

By 1976, we had accumulated \$2,300 in the bank and talk began on adding an addition to our museum as a memorial to the late Dick Knarr and other deceased members who had brightened our history with first-person recollections of early day Troutdale. Thanks to help from the federally-funded CETA program construction began in the summer of 1977 with Ted Schulte supervising. The CETA program also gave us two full-time employes for our museum, curator Bert Whalen and typist Pauline Holcomb, and it provided the boost necessary to complete restoration of the depot which was dedicated in November, 1977.

Heading into its eleventh year, The Society is continuing on-going projects which include aiding and encouraging the historical preservation of the downtown business area, expanding and improving exhibits in both the park museum and the rail depot and gathering history for a book on Troutdale.