

BYGONE TIMES

A Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March, 1996

Sharon Nesbit, Editor, 665-0423

Troutdale's financial institutions: Three Banks, Come and Gone

The checkered, and not very successful, history of Troutdale banking institutions, is the subject of our next meeting, Sunday, March 17, in two venues – first, 1 to 2 p.m., an open house at the former Troutdale State Bank, now Troutdale Law Firm, at Buxton and the Historic Columbia River Highway, and then in Troutdale City Hall for our 2 p.m. meeting on banking in our community.

Richard Weill, owner of Troutdale Law Firm, is our host at his office, the original Troutdale State Bank, founded in 1920. The building was restored by Greg Wilder and the open house gives us chance to see the restored vault as well as the rest of the building.

Weill joins us at city hall where President Dave Ripma will present him with a historical marker for his building telling of Troutdale banking history.

At 2 p.m., historian Sharon Nesbit traces the history of the three banks established in Troutdale, followed by one of our audience participation events. If you know a story about Troutdale banks or the people who worked in them, come prepared to tell the tale. The meeting will be taped for our oral history collection.



Fred Harlow a lousy banker but a good house builder

Thanks to those who called concerned about the Harlow House during the storm and flood. But, as Bill Nesbit said, "Fred Harlow really knew what he was doing when he built his house on that little bump." Fred's banking blunder will be discussed at our March meeting.

Despite flooding from the new development above, Harlow House stayed high and dry. We did have a furnace failure in the barn, which Dick Jones had repaired. Our neighbors did not fare as well, with Dalton Williams experiencing flooding.

CALENDAR

for March

March 7, Thurs., 6:30 p.m.: Bingo, Glenn Otto Community Park, Troutdale.

March 11, Mon., 7 p.m.: Steering committee, barn.

March 14, Thurs., 6:30 p.m.: Bingo, Glenn Otto Community Park.

March 17, Sun., 1 & 2 p.m.: Open house, Troutdale Law Firm, regular meeting at city hall.

March 21, Thurs., 6:30 p.m.: Bingo, Glenn Otto Community Park.

March 23, Sat., 9 a.m.: Barnstorming committee, barn.

March 27, Wed., noon: Friends of Zimmerman House, barn.

March 28, Thurs., 6:30 p.m.: Bingo, Glenn Otto Community Park.

March 31, Sun., 2 p.m.: Sharon Nesbit's history talk, Harlow House.

April 3, Wed., 7 p.m.: Troutdale Historical Society board of directors, barn.

April 6, Sat., 9 a.m.: Barnstorming committee, barn.



OFFICER ELECTION:

Mitchoff and Baker added to board

Elected to office at our annual meeting in February two new faces, Mona Mitchoff, vice president, and Florence Baker, board of directors.

Reelected were David Ripma, president; Penny Balch, treasurer; Jean Holman, secretary; and Mike Dubesa and Dick Jones, board of directors.

February is also the time to pay annual dues. If a dues envelope was attached to your newsletter last month, then you owe dues. Consider a membership in the Director's Club, \$75 a couple or \$50 a person, which helps to pay the costs of our director, and includes a lovely summer party.



TREASURER'S REPORT

FROM PENNY BALCH

OPERATING ACCT.....	\$ 7,370.36
DED. BARN FUND.....	616.53
BARN BUILDING.....	24,100.80
ENDOWMENT FUND...	21,657.89
DIRECTORS FUND.....	2,336.23
BINGO FUND.....	3,974.98
 TOTAL.....	 \$60,056.79

This reflects \$20,000 from the estate of John Nasmyth for the barn and exhibits, as well as more than \$21,000 in our endowment fund dedicated to the future of our society.

GIFTS
TO THE BARN
FUND
Cheryl Ragan
Len Otto
Debbie Schoepper

In memory of
Peter C. Binn
from George & Peggy Thoeny

Schmunk, director setting up shop

Much of their free time in recent months takes Marge Schmunk and Ellen Brothers to various markets exploring products for our museum store in the depot.

Current thinking favors a shop named "End of the Line." If you have merchandising experience, give some thought to volunteering in this new venture and hosting our depot museum at the same time.

Bingo workers keep doors open

Bob & Mona Mitchoff are building a regular staff of bingo volunteers to run our game each Thursday night at 6:30 p.m. in Sam K. Cox Hall, Glenn Otto Community Park.

If you can lend a hand in the kitchen, in helping to set up on Thursday afternoons, in the cashier's cage, working the floor, or if you have ever had an urge to be caller, give them a call at 666-5455.

GIFTS
TO THE
OPERATING FUND

Jo & Vaden Callister
Mona & Rocky Denton
Lois Douglass
Geneva & Henry Kellogg
Herb & Clover Nasmyth
Carl & Elaine Spencer
Jan Vreeland
Robert Wenzel

In memory of
Marlin E. Pope
Margaret Stoeckel

In memory of
Bertha C. Helming
Mr. & Mrs. Dominic Balesteri

In memory of
Samuel Heulen
Robert, Tamara, B.J. & Samuel Campbell

Holly McWilliams remembered

Ralston "Holly" McWilliams, 96, Wood Village, died Feb. 18. A longtime member of this society, he worked all his life in the dairy business. His wife, Helen, died in 1992. McWilliams was a World War II veteran

GIFTS
TO THE
ENDOWMENT FUND

Clark & Bessie Carney
Ginger Harlow Allen
Jean Buck
Robert Douglass
Anneliese Hazen
Jean Holman
Gloria Ladum
M.A. & Ethel Nelson
Arline Silfberg
Bob & Maude Winning

In memory of
Lois Mitchell
Sam & Nettie Cox
Gerald & Shirley Lambert

In honor of
Sam Cox
R. Kent Lundergan

Project excites barnstormers

Members of Bob Strebin's barnstorming committee met in recent months with various exhibit designers with an eye to hiring one to prepare a master plan for a museum exhibit and, likely, to help with the first displays in the barn.

The job, as one designer put it, raising his hands to indicate the interior of the barn, "is to take the things you have and figure out how to put them in this box."

While meeting with designers, the group continues the job of distilling the stories it wants to tell about Troutdale. Barnstormers meet again in the barn at 9 a.m. March 23 and at 9 a.m. on April 6. Visitors always welcome.

Faye Harlow has moved to a care center and would welcome greetings at 17950 SW 115th Ave., #3, Tualatin, OR 97062.

History of the Vegetable Shed, Part Two by Alice Wand

Continuing Alice Wand's presentations on the history of the vegetable sheds along Troutdale's railroad tracks, and the vegetable growers who used them. Her husband, Ig, was closely involved in the business. Alice's parents grew flowers in the area. The following history is the second half of the text of a program she presented in November at the "cooler building," now converted to an antique mall in downtown Troutdale.

WAR CHANGES THE VEGETABLE BUSINESS

After Ted Binn (now a Woodland, Wash., resident) came back from the service in 1946 he helped a man called Bud build the north-south ell on the end of this building.

Ernest (Chick) Peterson, a local farmer, became the U.S. Department of Agriculture inspector for produce sold to the military. Handling produce changed at this time. Prior to this, the farmer crated his produce in the field as it was cut. Now the farmer hauled it loose in trucks or trailers to the vegetable shed here. We see pictures of conveyors, people sorting cabbage and bunching carrots. Women and Skid Row men are working along the conveyors.

Len Otto remembers his mother, Helen, picking up fallen vegetables after they bounced off the trucks when they hit a bump on the west end of the Sandy River Bridge.

Another lady told me she worked eight hours on the vegetable line and another three hours sorting baker potatoes, five days a week.

Another lady told about the hardest day of work she ever had, bunching carrots. She lasted one day. Got so little pay she didn't remember how much it was.

Ted Binn now tells us the stories I didn't get straight. About as a young boy accompanying his father to The Dalles to encourage the Japanese farmers to form an association. About the White Rose potatoes that disintegrated into nothing and just the sacks were left. About the rotten cabbage that he and another man had to shovel out and that was so smelly that the Tillers would hardly let them in to eat lunch in their restaurant. About the big safe getting away from them when they were moving it into the office and about telling his father to go to hell when his father wanted him to go to work on his first leave home after the war. About how he (Ted) had to go into the cooler room to try to fix an ammonia leak and how he still can't smell anything from the injury. (The new owner said they still smelled the ammonia when they went in.)

One story I missed telling was about Ted Schulte getting the cull carrots for his ponies and how his old white horse ate too many and started losing his hair after about a week. The vet said it was too much Vitamin A. That happens to humans, too.

In answer to one last question, yes, there was some celery shipped from this shed. Jim Spence and the Wilson Brothers shipped some.

Wand added: "Forgot to tell about the layers of tar on the cooler floor. It was spread on to waterproof the floor. The new owners said it had done a super job. The floor was not rotted."

Wand concluded with an account of the displays prepared for the event, largely taken from Troutdale Historical Society files. They are listed as follows: Pictures of early Troutdale showing the trolley and its depot; a map drawn by Al Kimbley of the whole vegetable shed, including the north-south portion that burned; official seal of the Troutdale Vegetable Growers; picture of the first shed; list of the 83 members of the Troutdale Cauliflower and Lettuce Association; pictures of the old ice machine and the vegetable sheds; state corporation form stating that on Jan. 11, 1951 Troutdale Vegetable Co-op Association was dissolved; certificate noting a 1952 reorganization selling shares at \$1 per share; letter to a farmer, spelling the farmer's name wrong, informing him about his shares at 6 percent interest; list of the names of 221 stockholders in 1952; letter giving Pete Binn authority to borrow up to \$10,000 for operating expenses, signed by the board; and a gunny sack similar to the ones used to ship seed potatoes.

**Brown Bag Sale
set for April 20**

We have another of our famous brown bag sales on April 20. Fill a bag for a certain fee and carry it off.

**Members sign up
for Director's Club**

The following folks paid a higher rate of dues to support the work of director Ellen Brothers. Members of our Director's Club to date are: Florence Baker, Ted & Alvera Binn, Sam & Nettie Cox, Lola Fellman, Kyle Fritzsinger, Donna Hawkins, Jean Holman, Evelyn Jacobson, Patricia O'Brien, Helen Otto, Jeanne Pulliam, Vera Strebin, Bob Strebin, Bob & Dorothy Sturges, Beverly Welker and Harvey & Betty Wieprecht.

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS,
NAMES ON ROSTER**

New members to our society are Marilyn Morrison and Cathy Walter.

Gift memberships came in last month as well. Edna Alexander gave memberships to Joe & Audrey Barnett. June Sherman Nasmyth gave gift memberships to Louise Blohm, Kathy Dombrowski, John A. Sherman and John W. Sherman. (June is also a Saturday volunteer host at the Harlow House.)

Evelyn Jacobson gave gift memberships to Deanna Weinbaum and Theora Davis. Shannon L. Shannon is a member thanks to a gift from Dick Jones. Ken Otto received his membership from his mom, Helen Otto. and Jeanne & Richard Berg are members because of the generosity of Marge Smith.

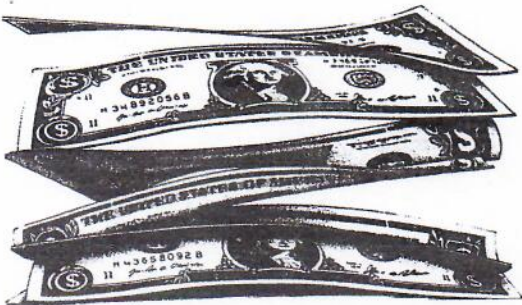
Namedroppers

Roberta Burns, still overcoming effects of a nasty fall, didn't let that stop her from doing hosting chores at the Harlow House last month. She and her husband, **Jack**, have been faithful volunteers for years, as have **Mary Hughes** and **Florence Baker...Dick & Carol Anderson** have accepted responsibility for watching the Harlow House and Barn on a weekly basis...**Ege Sanitary**, friends of our society for many years, have sold their business to a national firm...**Larry Rea & Pat Brothers** spent hours retrieving valuable information when our patched together computer system crashed at the Harlow House. We bit the bullet and bought a new computer for the museum office.

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

**Address Correction
Requested**

**BULK RATE
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**"You can bank on that," were
not particularly good words
in Troutdale
All about banks, March 17**