



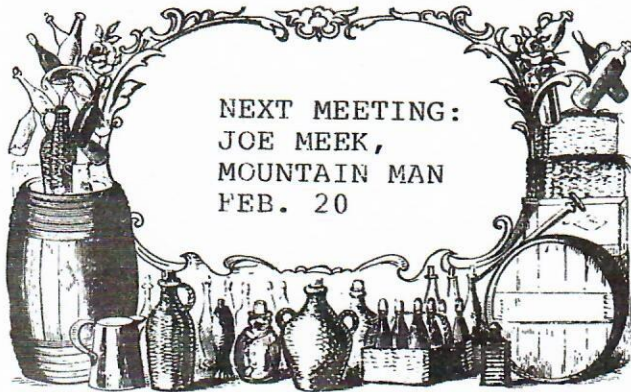
BYGONE TIMES

A Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FEBRUARY, 1994

EDITOR SHARON NESBIT, 665-0423

JOE MEEK--IN HIS GREAT GRANDSON'S FLESH...



NEXT MEETING:
JOE MEEK,
MOUNTAIN MAN
FEB. 20

Rapscallion. Mountain Man.
Adventurer. Oregon's first marshal.
Grieving father. Joe Meek was all of those things--a bigger than life Oregon hero. He will be represented by his great grandson, State Representative John Meek, at our annual meeting, 2 p.m., Sunday, February 20, in Troutdale City Hall.

John Meek, who last year traveled 2,200 miles by horseback on the Oregon Trail, will appear at our meeting in buckskins to tell the story of his famous great-grandfather. His appearance is arranged by Connie Purvis of our meetings committee.

This is the 26th anniversary meeting of our historical society. That means election of officers, payment of dues and our annual cake and ice cream celebration.

As is always the case in the Columbia River Gorge in winter, if we have bad weather and driving is dangerous, the meeting is cancelled. If there is a question, call Ellen Brothers at 695-2382.

ABOUT YOUR DUES...

If Membership Secretary Joyce Stoeckel has attached an envelope to this newsletter, that means you owe dues for the coming year.

Our dues come in seven tasty flavors. An individual membership is \$5. A membership for a couple is \$8. (Thank you in advance to those who simply round off that number to \$10. In order to make the most of small gifts, we don't mail thank you notes for contributions under \$5. But we're darn grateful.) A family membership is \$15. A lifetime membership is \$100. (Our lifetime dues go into our endowment fund. The theory being that they will earn interest to keep our society going for numerous lifetimes.) If you own a business and want your name mentioned in our newsletter each month, the rate for a business membership is \$125. Jim and Retha Bennett of Sandy River Orchards had a business membership last year, which makes them the apple of our eye.

Finally, we offer director's club memberships, \$50 for an individual, \$75 for a couple. The dues generated by the director's club pay the wages of Director Ellen Brothers. And director's club has a nifty benefit. President Dave Ripma invites director's club members to his historic home for a summer barbecue. If you are thinking about increasing your membership status, director's club is a fine way to do it.

Many of you choose dues payment time to make a contribution. If you send along extra money other than dues, check one of the boxes on the right-hand side of the envelope and we will stash the gift in the appropriate fund.

HELP WANTED-HELP WANTED-HELP WANTED-HELP WANTED-HELP WANTED

We are in need of a volunteer with organizational skills to chair the Harlow House committee. That job includes oversight of activities in the house, coordinating cleaning and restoration/repair work and planning for the future. This is a job that requires you to pretend that it's your house. We have people to do most of the Harlow House jobs, folks to clean, folks to catalog, folks to volunteer as hosts, but what we need is someone who loves old houses to lead this pack of volunteers. What the Harlow House needs is a wife! If you can do that job, please call Ellen Brothers, 661-2164 or 695-2382.

ABOUT THOSE DATES...

Just when we think we have all the numbers pinned down, the train jumps the track again. About our calendar of meeting dates in last month's newsletter, please amend the date of the March meeting.

Due to a conflict, our meeting--and an interview with Ted Binn on the Troutdale Vegetable Growers--will be a Monday evening gathering--7:30 p.m., Monday, March 21, in Troutdale City Hall. Don't miss it.

AND AN EVENING OF HISTORY AT HARLOW HOUSE...

Ruth Evans Sundling, whose parents Lee and Mabel Evans, were the last residents of the Harlow House, will come home for a visit at 7 p.m. Monday, March 14.

She and Sharon Nesbit will sit down for a chat about the Evans family and their life in the Harlow House and Ruth's wedding at the Harlow House. We will video tape the interview for our oral history files. You are invited to sit in on this evening of history.

A MARRIAGE MADE IN HISTORY...

John and June Nasmyth, who met at Troutdale Historical Society meetings, or rather, became reacquainted, and whose marriage united two local families with old ties in this area, celebrated their 5th wedding anniversary recently.

They celebrated their wedding with a cake at a historical society meeting. John and June are front-seat passengers at all of our Troutdale Treks.

SPEAKING OF TREKS...

Our spring Troutdale Trek will be a visit to our neighbors across the river. For about a year now, Sharon Nesbit and Dave Ripma have been meeting with the Camas Washougal Historical Society to compare notes and exchange ideas. As a result, they have invited us to take a field trip to their side of the river.

That will be Saturday, April 16, leaving Troutdale about 9 a.m. When we arrive in Camas the members of our neighbor society will take us on a tour of the city's historic homes, including some built by a gentleman named Roffler who worked in stone. After the two-hour tour, we go to a 1920 log club house where the Camas Washougal group will cater a lunch. After lunch, a visit to their museum, then a stop at the Pendleton mill and seconds store (with a possible tour.) From there we will take the scenic route home traveling east on Highway 14, across the Columbia on the Bridge of the Gods and home via I-84. Our guess on cost? About \$25 a person including lunch, transportation and all admissions, maybe a bit more depending on whether or not bus costs have gone up. More details in your next newsletter.

If you want to be on a waiting list to go, give Ellen Brothers a call at 661-2164.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK--BY ELLEN BROTHERS



We have been busy during the month of January with visitors from three history classes from Reynolds High School. The students' assignments brought them to the Harlow House Museum to learn about life at the turn of the century, about Troutdale's history and the significance of the Harlow House. Following their tour of the museum, students were required to turn in a paper about their research into Troutdale's history.

The museum hosts and I enjoyed the students' enthusiasm and their questions ("They really used an outhouse? and " You mean they didn't shower every day?")

And, speaking of attendance at the Harlow House, in 1993 1,871 people toured the museum. We have hoped for more, but the Sesquicentennial celebration in Oregon did not result in higher numbers of visitors for us.

In January's newsletter, we printed my winter office hours as Wednesdays from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.; however it has been necessary for me to change to Thursdays from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., so if you need to reach me or drop by the museum, Thursday is the day. Of course, you can also reach me by calling 695-2382.

ELECTIONS will be held at our February 20, 1994 meeting. The following officers and board members have been nominated: President, David Ripma; Vice President, Sharon Nesbit; Secretary, Helen Towsley; Treasurer, Lynda Harvey; and three Board Members, Dick Jones, Len Otto, and Mike Dubesa.

DONATIONS. . .

Patricia Wand, Ig Wand's daughter, and Bonnie Irwin both sent gifts to the Barn Building Fund in memory of Ig Wand.

NEW MEMBERS. . .

Welcome to new members Kathleen Waldron, Glenn and Edith Newton, and Ron Cummings. We hope to see you at our meetings and events.

CAKES, CAKES, CAKES. . .

Anyone who can help out by baking a cake for the Feb. 20 meeting should call Ellen Brohters at 661-2164. We will have five cakes, each decorated with one work--HAPPY, BIRTHDAY, TROUTDALE, HISTORICAL and SOCIETY. Clover Nasmyth is decorating "HAPPY" and Bill and Marie Stone have chosen "HISTORICAL." If you would like to choose "BIRTHDAY," "TROUTDALE" or "SOCIETY" give Ellen a call. It is always fun to see how creative our bakers/decorators are.

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY. . .

We have scheduled a Barn Work Day, Harlow House Museum and grounds clean up day for April 24, 1994, weather permitting. If you can join us, put that date on your calendar. We will make additional announcements as the date approaches. We can use all skill levels, so you don't have to be a master carpenter to volunteer. We provide donuts and coffee and plenty of laughs!

CONTINUING OUR HISTORY OF TROUTDALE...

(The last segment of our history dealt with a decline in Troutdale following construction the water level freeway, now Interstate 84, which pulled traffic away from Troutdale.)

Even the smelt runs, which came to the Sandy River in most springs, stopped in 1958. The fish stayed away for 14 years. Though the runs later returned to the river, the flood of small silver fish is as unpredictable as ever.

While storms roaring down the Columbia River Gorge have always buffeted Troutdale, one of the worst events in city history was the flood in 1948 that also destroyed the community of Vanport near Portland. Much of the lowland around Troutdale was inundated, the aluminum plant was threatened and dozens of people were evacuated.

The city remained fairly quiet through the 1950s, but in the 1960s urban pressure began to build and suburbanites found their way to Troutdale from Portland. By the late 1960s the town was facing its first subdivision and making plans for a sewer treatment plant. Under then Mayor Glenn Otto, later a state senator, the sewer treatment plant was completed in 1970 and the city boundaries expanded from 320 to more than 2,000 acres.

Otto recommend the formation of a Troutdale Historical Society. The society was organized in 1968. Today it numbers 500 members and maintains two museums in Troutdale, the rail depot and the Harlow House. A third museum, a barn to house agricultural exhibits, is under construction.

TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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