

Bygone Times

A Newsletter of The Troutdale Historical Society.



AUGUST 1993

EDITOR SHARON NESBIT, 665-0423

MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR THE RESERVATION

Our fall Troutdale Trek on Saturday, Sept. 11, will take us to The Dalles to see the Crate's Point Oregon Trail living history exhibit, to Kahneeta Resort for lunch and to the new Museum at Warm Springs.

We can absolutely guarantee a small bus will go, and if enough reservations come in by Aug. 20, we will take a big bus. The price is \$45 a person. That includes admissions to both the Crate's Point exhibit and the Warm Springs museum, as well as a soup, sandwich, salad lunch, with cookie and drink and the lovely arrowhead-shaped Kahneeta Lodge. There will be time as well to wander around the lodge and check out the gift shop. Our route takes us up the gorge to The Dalles, then south through Dufur, Tygh Valley, Wapinitia and Simnasho to Kahneeta. From Warm Springs we'll return home over Mount Hood on Highway 26, departing at 8:30 a.m. and returning about 6:30 p.m.

Both Crate's Point and the Museum at Warm Springs are new facilities, opened this year. Crate's Point's living history relates to the Decision at The Dalles, the dilemma facing settlers who arrived on the Oregon Trail on how to get to the Willamette Valley. Costumed interpreters tell their stories at ten stations in the compound.

The Museum at Warm Springs tells the history of the Warm Springs Confederated Tribes in a wonderful building full of tribal symbolism. Visitors see at tule mat lodge, a wickiup and a plank house, as well as a Wasco wedding scene with ceremonial regalia.

Join us for another great Troutdale Trek. You can make a reservation on the bus by sending your check, marked Warm Springs Trek to our address.

WHAT'S UP NEXT YEAR?

While we observe a summer hiatus of our meetings, our program committee, Sharon Nesbit, Connie Purvis, Alice Wand and Maude Winning, have been working on the fall and winter schedule. Here's the schedule:

Oct. 18, 6:30 p.m., McMenamain's Powerstation, our annual school reunion and no-host dinner. A panel discussion by Troutdale school alumni.

Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m., Troutdale City Hall, a celebration of the National Register status of the old Troutdale Methodist Episcopal Church. Presentation of a historic marker.

Dec. 11, noon to 4 p.m., Christmas at the Harlow House.

Jan. 16, 2 p.m., at Troutdale City Hall, James Keyser speaking on Columbia Gorge petroglyphs.

Feb. 21, 2 p.m., Troutdale City Hall, Mountain Man Joe Meek's descendant, John Meek.

March. 20, 2 p.m., Troutdale City Hall, Ted Binn, an oral history interview with the son of the man who started Troutdale Vegetable Growers.

April 17 at 2 p.m., a field trip to Bridal Veil for a meeting at the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist where we will hear Anita Birt talk about her book, The House at Bridal Veil.

Finally, on May 15 at our joint meeting of all area historical societies, Lewis McArthur, author of Oregon Geographic Names, the bible of Oregon place names, will come to talk with us about the

THANKS FOR ICE CREAM SOCIAL...

How do you say thanks to all the people who pitched in so diligently at the ice cream social? The berry cleaners--what a job they faced, and with what good spirits. Our hosts and hostesses, our ticket sellers, our talented scoopers, our servers, our Harlow House hosts, our barn hosts, our depot hosts, our sponsors--Walsh & Sons Trucking and Edwin O. Ege, Inc.--our musicians and our local farmers,--Townsend Farms, Fujii Farms, Tamura Farms. The folks who slaved in the kitchen and stayed to clean up, the steering committee who stayed with it for the better part of a three days, our puppeteer, our plant sale salespersons and our lace-makers and spinners. The event came together with a guest list of about 1,200 people and a final profit of about \$3,200. Thank you all.

SO WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH HARVEST FAIRE..

Harvest Faire, our end of the summer season event, takes place Sept. 25 and 26 at the Troutdale Community Park. Based on the premise that fall receives too little notice and is our most spendid season, we gather for food and fun and cider. This means a return of Sandy River Orchards as well as our most popular attraction, the Tad's Chicken N' Dumplins food booth, and our own historical society home-baked pies.

More on all of this next month, but here are things you can consider for now:

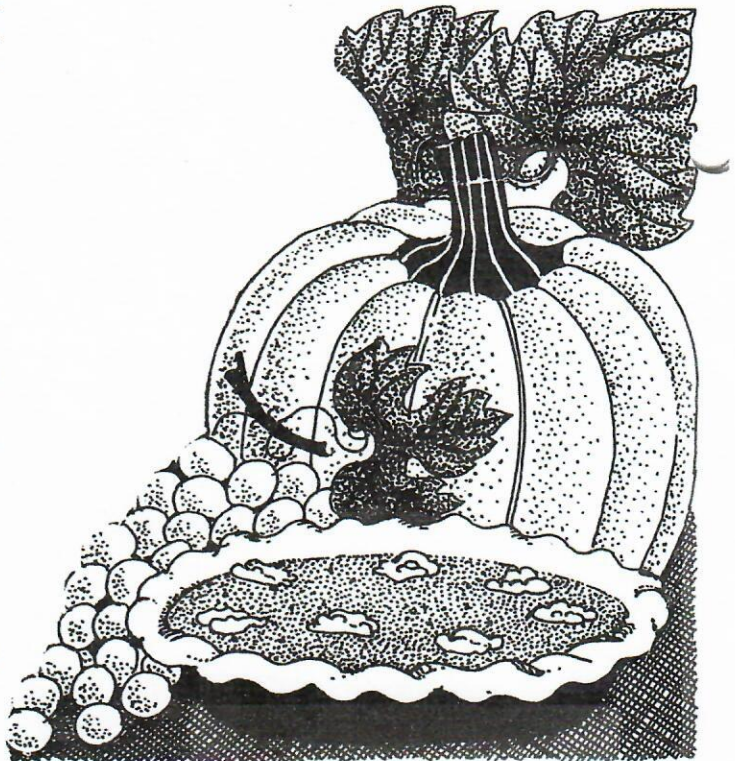
Antique sales--know someone who would like to rent space to sell antiques both days? Call Cindy Hammond (206) 834-2707.

Craft booths--hand made items, dried flowers, Halloween and Thanksgiving stuff, all very welcome. Call Jean Holman, 665-7678.

And remember our one-time only introductory offer. If you have fall produce to sell, we will give you a space free. PLEASE NOTE: Jean has been given two names, no address or phone numbers, of people interested in Harvest Faire booths. Will Tamara Taylor and Gretchen Harold please get in touch with her.

Pies--if you can volunteer to make pies, call Sharon Nesbit, 665-0423.

Jewelry--Marge Schmunk will have her usual used jewelry display. If you are cleaning out a jewelry box or two and find treasures, leave them at the Harlow House or call Marge at 666-7706. And remember to stop by our booth to buy your winter supply of dried lavender. Marge has it all ready.



Granny's Attic--Mona Mitchoff and Heidi Wilson want your gently used goods for our Granny's Attic sale. Decorator items, household goods, old vases, pretty good dishes, antique clothing or hats, salt and pepper shakers, etc. If you are moving this summer, or just doing a cleaning, remember Granny's Attic. You may leave things at the Harlow House, or call Mona Mitchoff, 666-5455, or Heidi Willson, 667-9900.

Decorator Items: Save your corn husks, fresh flowers, etc. for our decorations. Anybody plant a big bunch of pumpkins?

TREASURER'S REPORT...

ENDOWMENT FUND.....	\$13,391.13
OPERATING ACCOUNT.....	9,055.63
DEDICATED BARN FUNDS.....	733.69
BARN BUILDING FUND.....	11,831.61
DIRECTOR'S FUND.....	3,710.40
TOTAL.....	\$38,722.46



AROUND THE HOUSE.....by Cathy Hamme, Curator

Lots of changes around the grounds. We had the city crew remove a messy cherry tree to make way for a replica of the Lover's Oak. Bob Strebin has volunteered to train a new oak tree into the shape of our old Lover's Oak, our historical society symbol. That will take some time, so we'll keep you posted. (The original Lover's Oak grew down by the Troutdale Airport and was toppled in a the 1962 Columbus Day windstorm.)

There was a native maple in front that had to come out too. Frank J. Schmidt of the nursery of the same name has given us a lovely 12-foot Red Sunset Maple, a tree that Schmidt developed here, to replace it and add fall color. The city crew is picking it up and planting it for us. Thank you, thank you, thank you to Frank and the city and Bill Nesbit for arranging it all.

On the whole, the grounds are looking pretty good in spite of weather and mosquitos and the need to keep weeds at bay.

Inside the house, Beverly Welker (did you see her photo in a recent Oregonian article about her work as our photo librarian?) has donated several items including a children's card game with Disney characters and some great baby clothes. They will be on display soon.

And Steve Lehl brought us a Columbia Brand lard can (from our own Union Meat Company in Troutdale) in perfect condition. Look for it in the pantry exhibit.

NAMEDROPPERS...JIM & RETHA BENNETT donated a tasty pear topping to the ice cream social...JERAL BEATY made heart-shaped pins from an old quilt to pass out to social workers...ERIKA CODANTI is not a member of our society, but she worked overtime at the social, two shifts a day, both days...GLADYS REED and VERA STREBIN donations in memory of the late JESSIE SANDIFORTH, Florence Baker's mother...MARY MCDONNELL, a cousin of Beverly Welker, won the Fellow Traveller's poster from the ice cream social. She was thrilled. Thanks to JEAN HOLMAN & CATHY HAMME for seeing that framing was done...TED & LOIS SCHULTE made a contribution to the endowment fund...Writes CINDY CURRY: "After my visit to the Harlow House and attending the ice cream social, I knew I wanted to belong to the Troutdale Historical Society. I'm looking forward to participating in what seems to me to be a very charming group of people." Welcome, Cindy...RICK WOOD, a guest to the museum, donated several old medicine, food and whiskey bottles...MIKE & CATHY HAMME made donations to the Director's Club and the general fund...ADRIENNE CLAUSEN is a new member who went with us on the trek to Baker City. Her membership check included an extra gift to the general fund...Welcome also new members LOIS DOUGLAS; Wood Village; CAROL GERITY, Gresham; DAVE & VIVIAN STARBUCK, Fairview; and KEVIN & DIANE WIESE, Troutdale...BRUCE & MARILEE THOMPSON gave a donation to our general fund. He is a Troutdale city councilor...From the "Second Glance Quartet" who sang at the ice cream social: "What a great event. We all enjoyed ourselves so much. Thank you for such a great opportunity"...From MR. & MRS. WALTER NASMYTH, Portland: "Thank you for acknowledging Laura (Nasmyth) Lord's death in your recent



TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY SMELT QUEEN AND COURT

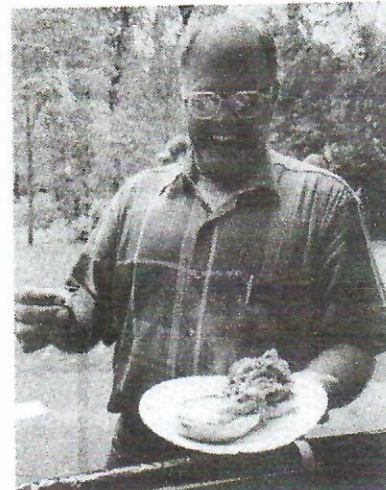
From left: Sharon Nesbit, Jean Holman, Dorothy Sturges, Cathy Hamme

HAMBURGERS, SMELT COURT CROWN PICNIC...

There is nothing more gratifying than seeing a continuous line of people drooling and waiting patiently for one of our delicious hamburgers (with lots of onions, please) at the Troutdale picnic. Our burger fryers work hard, but they have a good time. We sold out all 300 hamburgers by 3:30 p.m.

Our thanks to DICK JONES, SAM COX, SHARON & BILL NESBIT, TED SCHULTE, MIKE DUBESA, MCNA MITCHOFF, CATPY HAMME, PHIL & HEIDI WILSON, DAVE RIPMA, MARIO AYALA, GEORGE KLINGER, BEVERLY WELKER, LYNDA HARVEY, DOROTHY STURGES and JEAN HOLMAN.

And, we won a first place with our Smelt Queen and Court float, a bevy of beauties dressed in formal wear, hip waders, fish crowns and dip net scepters. They were CATHY HAMME, DOROTHY STURGES, JEAN HOLMAN and SHARON NESBIT. DAVID RIPMA set up a hay wagon float and provided tractor power. JACK KNIGHT made the banner. And SAM COX rode in TORI MUCK'S pickup as our member of the



Dave Traxler, who coincidentally was the contractor on our our barn construction, is also a fan of our famous hamburger.

Jim & Retha Bennett, Sandy River Orchards, are sponsors of this newsletter.

NEXT BARN WORK DAY ON JUNE 26...

Bring work gloves, lunch and some energy for our barn work day beginning at 9 a.m. on two Saturdays in August, the 14th and the 28th. We are inching ever closer to sheet rock work, but barn builder DICK JONES keeps finding little bits that need doing before we seal up the walls.

Skilled carpenters are needed to finish the false front door. This is a dedicated barn project paid for with a gift from Florence Baker and the late Bill Baker. Workers will be needed to tote insulation up stairs and stash it in the rafters, in readiness for sheet rocking. MIKE JACOBS is our volunteer plumber for hooking up the bathrooms, a project that is ever closer to completion.

Saturday work day volunteers on June 26 were DICK JONES, BILL STONE, ROY HOOVER, BOB STREBIN and SAM COX.

JEAN HOLMAN'S GOOD GOOEY COOKIES...

Following our spring brunch, several people asked for this recipe from Jean Holman:

OATMEAL CARMELITAS

Crust: 1 cup flour
1 cup quick-cooking oats
3/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar
1/2 teaspoon soda
1/4 teaspoon salt
3/4 cup butter, melted

Filling: 1 cup (six ounces) semi-sweet chocolate chips
1/2 cup chopped pecans
3/4 cup caramel ice cream topping
3 tablespoons flour



To make the crust combine all ingredients, blend well to form crumbs. Press half the crumbs into the bottom of a nine-inch square pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. Remove from oven and sprinkle with chocolate chips and pecans. Blend caramel topping with flour and spread over chocolate and pecans. Sprinkle with remaining crumb mixture. Bake 15 to 20 minutes or until golden brown. Chill 1 to 2 hours.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK----by Ellen Brothers

In June we received a grant award of \$496.98 from the Oregon Tourism Division of the Oregon Economic Development department. This is an increase from last year when our grant was \$411.38. The maximum allotted to any one museum for 1993 was \$505.16. The funds come from the Oregon lottery and they are especially meant to encourage tourism in Oregon, because we know from surveys that the tourists who come here want to see historic sites.

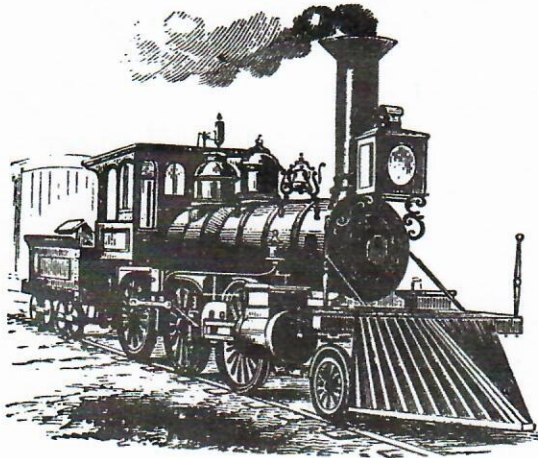
If you ever get a chance to thank a state legislator for these funds, please do so, because they make the laws that make this possible.

That was the good news. Unfortunately, our efforts to obtain grant funding for a heating/cooling system in the barn were unsuccessful. We will be applying for additional grant money from other sources, knowing that our heating/cooling system will cost about \$9,000.

We are looking for a Wednesday afternoon angel, a host for the Harlow House each Wednesday afternoon from 1 to 5 p.m. through September. If you are interested, please call me at the museum, 661-2164, or at home, 695-2382.

CHEERS FOR CONNIE PURVIS...

Do you remember Jan. 20, 1986, when we sat down at our meeting to do an oral history interview with Chim Howell and John Nasmyth? All the laughter and fun we had, talking about kids pranks, the day the two of the them stole a locomotive, the talk of moonshine stills in Troutdale?



Of course, you don't remember every detail because the mind doesn't work that day. That's why we tape such interviews. To preserve them.

But tape is only so useful. If you need to extract one detail, from a two-hour interview, the process of listening to the whole tape can sometimes take more time than the effort is worth. So, the next step in our oral history library is the task of transcribing such tapes and putting them on paper. That is what Connie Purvis agreed to do for us.

Connie's first job was transcribing the Howell/Nasmyth tape and she said she sure had a good time. She laughed and laughed, getting it all down on paper. She was mostly amused at Interviewer Sharon Nesbit's inability to get Chim Howell to admit that he had a still of his own.

The classic quote in that interview: Chim Howell speaking from the council chambers at Troutdale City Hall and saying, "There were three stills within about 75 or 80 feet of where we are now."

With some finishing touches and final corrections, the Howell/Nasmyth transcript, as well as others in the future, will be for sale.

WHO WAS MABEL WOOD?

If it were not for Homer Townsend, Mabel Wood, former teacher at Cedar School in 1920-1921 and head of the Home Economics Department of the University of Oregon for 28 years, would be forgotten.

Townsend, a former Cedar School-area resident now living in Goldendale, Wash., publishes historical books and always makes a gift of a copy to our library. In the process of preparing a biography of Mabel Wood, Townsend discovered that the teacher's cremated remains (she died in Portland in 1978) are still in a funeral home. No instructions were left for the disposition of her remains.

Because she was born in Palmer near Bridal Veil and her parents are buried at Douglass Cemetery, Townsend as come to the logical conclusion that her ashes should be placed in the family plot in Troutdale's Douglass Cemetery and he has asked our help in doing so.

Bateman Carroll Funeral Chapel in Gresham has donated a grave marker and Townsend has made a donation sufficient to cover the costs of setting the stone. He plans a memorial service at 2 p.m., Sept. 12, in the cemetery. The Rev. Brian O'Grady will officiate.

Townsend hopes that people who knew Mabel as well as Cedar School alumni will attend the event.

More next month.

CONTINUING A SERIES ON THE HISTORY OF TROUTDALE...

Family records credit David F. Buxton as Troutdale's founder. He did, indeed, have a donation land claim in what is now downtown Troutdale. However, it was Capt. John Harlow who conceived a plan for the town and ultimately made it happen.

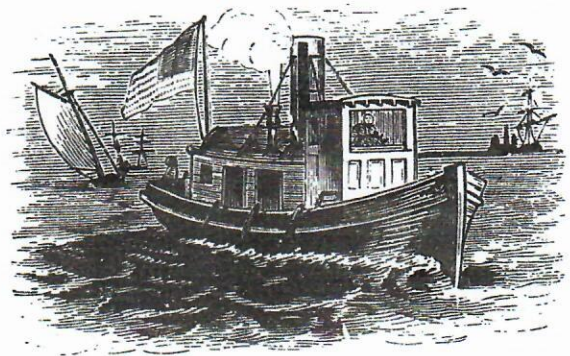
Buxton came to the area first and took a land claim in the center of the present city in 1853. He died in Troutdale in 1910. The springs on the hillside where his claim was located served as the town's water supply into the 1960s and Buxton developed the city's first primitive water system. He also donated two acres for a school on the old Sandy Boulevard (West Historic Columbia River Highway) east of the present Multnomah County Animal Control Facility. The land was returned to him when a new school was built at the present hilltop location in 1893. The third and present school was built in 1926.

Creation of a proper town of streets and blocks was left to the ambitious and colorful Capt. Harlow and his family. A sea captain from Maine, he came West during the California gold rush and prospered as a Portland businessman. Harlow came to Troutdale in 1872 to build a country home and farm, buying part of Buxton's donation land claim, as well as other parcels in the vicinity of the present Harlow House.

Because he raised trout in the fish ponds in back of his farm home and because of its location in the Sandy River canyon, he called his farm Troutdale. In the early 1880s when plans were developing to push a transcontinental railroad through the gorge, Harlow convinced railroad officials to build a depot at the site of his farm. They refused at first, so the captain waited until the Sandy River was high in a spring freshet and sailed an old brigantine upriver, beaching it near the mouth of Beaver Creek. He then declared the river navigable and told the railroad that if they would not build a depot at the location of his farm, then they must put in a drawbridge over the river so he could ship his produce in and out. The railroad gave in to his wishes and the name of Harlow's farm, Troutdale, was applied to the depot. The rail line came through on Nov. 20, 1882, giving Troutdale the impetus to be a bonafide town.

Troutdale is credited with being the source of all the carp in Northwest waters as a result of Capt. Harlow's experiment with the fish in 1880. Harlow imported carp from Sacramento, Calif., at a price of \$5 apiece to raise them for consumption in fine Portland restaurants. In a spring flood, 3,000 carp fingerlings escaped the Troutdale ponds. The captain estimated his loss at \$1 apiece or \$3,000. Twelve years later the offspring of these prolific fish were sold as fertilizer by commercial fishermen for \$5 a ton.

After Harlow's death in 1883, his widow, Celestia, the third of the captain's wives, set about platting a town on the hillside with blocks and streets. Much of the city was built in 1890 and 1891. The first edition of Troutdale's newspaper announced the opening of Aaron Fox's store in a new building, the opening of Ellis Hall and restaurant, as well as advertisements from a meat market, a hardware store, a surgeon, notary public and blacksmith.





TROUTDALE, ABOUT 1915...

The brick Hotel Troutdale now houses the bicycle shop and Alluring Lines, a women's sportswear shop. The top floor of the building was destroyed in a 1925 fire. The Aaron Fox store is the forerunner of the Troutdale General Store.

TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
104 S.E. KIBLING ST.
TROUTDALE, ORE. 97060

BULK RATE
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IN SEPTEMBER:
A trip to Kahneeta,
A memorial service
and Harvest Faire.

