

Newsletter of the

Troutdale Historical Society



March 2010

Mark your Calendar

Mona Bell; Mistress to Sam Hill

March 21 - 2 p.m.
Troutdale City Hall

First Friday at the Depot

Friday, April 2
5-8 p.m.
Music, Artists & Wine
Tasting

Oral History with Vern Rathman -Annual Business Meeting and election of officers.

April 18 - 2 p.m.
Troutdale City Hall

Cemetery Tour Hood River & Beyond ???

May 22
Leave barn Museum 9 a.m.
Cost: \$10 per person

Daylight Savings Time starts March 14th! Turn your clocks ahead one hour

Troutdale Historical Society Presents:

Mona Bell: Sam Hill's Mistress



The Troutdale Historical Society is pleased to announce that Northwest author, John Harrison will be the featured speaker at our program meeting on March 21.

Harrison will tell us about his recently published book, *A Woman Alone: Mona Bell, Sam Hill, and the Mansion on Bonneville Rock*. *A Woman Alone* is the story of Mona Bell Hill, a mistress of Sam Hill, builder of the Historic Columbia River Highway and of Maryhill, now a museum on the Washing-

ton side of the Columbia. Mona bore Sam Hill a son and named him Sam in 1928. She was married for a brief time to Sam Hill's cousin Edgar and so got the name Hill.

Mona and her son Sam lived in a spectacular hilltop mansion in the Columbia River Gorge, a gift from Sam Hill, who died in 1931 when his son was 3 years old. In 1934 the property was condemned by the War Department for the construction of Bonneville Dam.

Mona fought the government in Federal Court through two trials. She eventually won more than \$70,000, a considerable

sum at the time, but she lost the home she loved. The book details Mona's life before and after her time in the Gorge.

John Harrison lives in Vancouver, WA with his wife Dawn and works as the Information Officer at the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, a government agency based in Portland that does long-range electric energy planning and fish and wildlife recovery planning.

Please join us at 2 p.m. at the Troutdale City Hall on March 21 for this fascinating look at the life of Mona Bell Hill. Admission is free and light refreshments will be served.



Mona Bell's house in the Columbia River Gorge was a gift from Sam Hill

It is March already! Where has the time gone???

We will start having First Friday at the Depot starting on April 2 and hope you will all come and help us celebrate the Re-Grand-Opening of the Depot Store. Our **one-day** project that started **13 months ago**, with the \$8000 grant from Hampton, is finally finished. You never know what can happen until you tear into an old building. With this project Murphy's Law popped up time and time again.

As I sit here looking out the window at the Depot on a sunny Sunday afternoon, it is hard to believe that they are predicting snow down to 500 feet for the morning commute. Somewhere in the world there is a Sandy beach with fruity drinks and little paper umbrellas in them, with my name on them. I

should live so long!

The Arch will be up this month and it is amazing. It will be interesting to see how they get this huge piece of art up on the supports and how long traffic will be affected by the move. If you haven't been to the Arch blog, you should check out the progress. The blog address is on the back page of the newsletter.

A special wish of con-

dolences for THS members Phyllis Thiemann and Carnetta Boyd on the loss of their father this week.

Most of our Tuesday Ladies have flown the coop for the winter, (or at least part of it). We will look forward to seeing them when they all get back.

A really, really special thank-you goes out to **Dave & Jennifer**

Munson. They donated a new toilet to the Depot, and for Dave putting it in last week. I never thought I would get so excited about a new toilet, but believe me, if you had seen the old one...

Dad's been gone two years and a week, doesn't seem possible.

Thanks to the faithful who show up and help to fold and fasten the newsletters. It is a big job!

Take care, have a happy St. Patty's Day (watch out for the green beer) & a Happy Easter (don't eat too many eggs).

Happy Spring!!!

Terry



Rip Caswell watching as the giant fish he sculpted from bronze are attached to the arch.



Mary Bryson has donated this beautiful red, white and blue quilt for a raffle.

The tickets are \$2 each or 3 tickets for \$5, 7 tickets for \$10 and 15 tickets for \$20. Tickets will be for sale at THS meetings and functions throughout the year and at The Depot during business hours.

The drawing will be held on December 4, 2010 at the Christmas Open House at Harlow House.

We apologize that we ran out of tickets for some of the newsletters last month. We stated that there were 15 tickets enclosed and some newsletters only had seven. We apologize for this and now have lots of tickets available at the Depot.

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4 Oregon History Museum 100 Years of the Pendleton Round-Up

The first Pendleton Round-Up was to be “a frontier exhibition of picturesque pastimes, Indian and military spectacles, cowboy racing and bronco busting for the championship of the Northwest.” It turned out to be that and more.

For the initial show, all stores closed. “The largest crowd in Pendleton’s history,” 7,000 strong,

showed up for the first show on September 29, 1910, a newspaper writer reported.

A uniquely collaborative exhibit celebrating the 100th anniversary of an iconic Oregon event, the Pendleton Round-Up opened at the Oregon History Museum on March 5. This once in a life-time exhibit gives viewers a look

at historic artifacts and memorabilia; bringing the experience alive for newcomers, and allowing those who wouldn’t miss it, a chance to revel in the nostalgia of unforgettable Round-up moments.

With a mix of authentic Round-Up gear, video clips, prizes and memorabilia, visitors will get a true sense of the Wild West with this new exhibit. Traditional

attire, saddles and cowboy hats are just a piece of the Round-Up exhibit. The exhibit showcases stunning historic photography of champions, fans and the many heart-stopping moments experienced over 100 years of rodeo.

Museum hours are Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more information got to www.ohs.org or call 503-222-1741.

Oie Workman

Fairview resident Oie Workman, 80, died Sunday, Jan. 17, in Portland from cancer.

Oie was born Aug. 25, 1929, in Tallinn, Estonia, to Bernhard Martin Heinsoo and Koidula Metskull. She lived in Tallinn until the outbreak of World War II. After Oie’s father was arrested in January 1941, her mother arranged travel to East Germany by train, and the family became displaced persons. The family was later evacuated to West Germany, but Oie developed severe frostbite

in her legs while waiting for a Red Cross train in freezing weather. A doctor managed to heal her legs, but Oie had poor circulation for the rest of her life.

Oie received a high school equivalency degree in 1950 at an improvised school for displaced people in Lingen, Germany. With sponsorship from the Lutheran World Federation, Oie and her family immigrated to the United States in July 1950. From New York, the family traveled to Olympia, Wash., to pick blackberries in order

to reimburse payment for the passage. Afterward, the family moved to Portland.

On Sept. 7, 1957, she married James R. Workman in Portland and they settled in Fairview.

Oie worked at Jantzen Knitting Mills until the birth of her first daughter in 1963. She volunteered for years at her daughters’ elementary school and taught many students how to read and write.

Oie and Jim were involved with the Portland Estonian Society and the Mariners group at Smith

Memorial Presbyterian Church. They enjoyed ballroom dancing to big band music and annual big band cruises.

Survivors include her husband; daughters, Kristi Workman of Hood River, Hildi Workman Norman of Fairview and Tiia Workman of Corvallis; twin brother, Heino Heinsoo of Springfield; and brother, Jaan Heinsoo of Salem. Memorial contributions can be made to the Fairview Rockwood Wilkes Historical Society, P.O. Box 946, Fairview, 97024.

Martine Rathman

Former Troutdale resident Martine Rathman, 81 died on Feb. 1, at her home in Sandy.

A celebration of her life was held on Feb. 20, at her home.

Martine was born Feb. 3, 1928, in Valley Forge, Tenn., to Clyde and Marjorie (Davis) Humphrey.

On June 25, 1948, she married Vernon Rathman in Vancouver, Wash.

Martine was a homemaker. Her husband, Vernon, was an excavating contractor and the mayor of Troutdale from 1960 to 1964. Martine was a past First Lady of Troutdale and a charter member of the Troutdale Historical Society. She co-

founded the Windy Whirlers Square Dance Club, which first met in members’ homes and later moved to City Hall. Southwest Martine Court in Troutdale is named for her.

Survivors include her husband; sons, Ken Rathman of Oregon City, Dan Rathman of Sandy and Tim Rathman of Sandy; sisters, Hazel

Webb of Corbett, Melba Klinker of Gresham and Della Martin of Gresham; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions can be made to Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Attn: Donor Services, P.O. Box 650309, Dallas, Texas, 75265-0309.

THS Museums Open Third Saturday of Each Month ⁵

The Troutdale Historical Society will have all three of the museums open on the third Saturday March 20, 2010, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

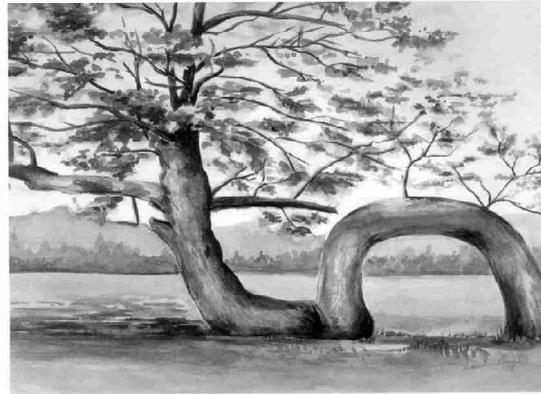
The Harlow House will feature a display of the society's vintage quilts.

The Barn Museum exhibit illustrates the history of Troutdale from its beginning as a city in 1907

until its centennial celebration in 2007.

Among the exhibits, visitors will find text panels, antique farming tools, a slide show of vintage photos, and murals by local artist Kathy Allegri.

As an added feature this month, Kathy will be in the Barn Museum teaching her watercolor class and she also will be available to



Sarah Lowe's painting of Lover's Pak



Kathi Allegri painting one of the murals at the Barn Museum

discuss the murals she has painted in the barn. Kathy has taught watercolor classes throughout the Pacific Northwest, California, Hawaii, and Provence, France. Her paintings and murals are in private, corporate, and civic collections in mainland United States, Hawaii, Asia, and Europe. Her mural *Once upon the Quicksand* is in the

Barn Museum.

Also at the Depot Museum, a local favorite artist, Sarah Lowe, will have her paintings on display.

A wonderful collection of railroad memorabilia and tools is on display in the Depot Rail Museum.

The Depot Museum and store are open every Saturday.

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Please call the office, 503-661-2164, if you would like to use your credit/debit card to pay for dues, raffle tickets, donations or in memory contributions! Tuesday-Friday 8-11:30 a.m. and Saturday 10-2.



Troutdale Historical Society
104 SE Kibling St.
Troutdale, OR 97060
Phone 503-661-2164
www.troutdalehistory.org

Mission Statement:

To gather, preserve and make available material relating to the history of the community of Troutdale, the Sandy River, the Columbia River Gorge and nearby area: To stimulate interest in, and knowledge of, the locality's past.

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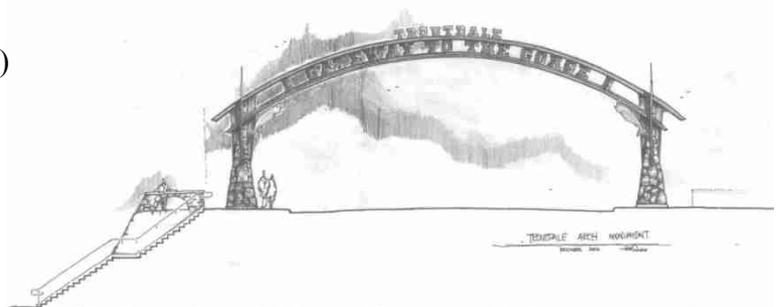
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Check out the arch blog and keep up with the progress as it gets closer to reality. <http://troutdalecentennialarch.blogspot.com>

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