
ByGone Times
Quarterly Newsletter of the Troutdale Historical Society
In This Issue
The Hidden Mural Returns
A Journey to Champoeg
Treasures from the Collection
October – December 2026

ByGone Times

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This issue of ByGone Times looks brighter thanks to our Business Sponsor, Marathon Printing Inc. (MPI)! Leamy Printing & Design recently merged with MPI, bringing together a talented team and a long tradition of supporting Troutdale. The Leamy family has stood by THS for many years, and our community is stronger because of people like them. Thanks to MPI's generosity, we can now print ByGone Times in full color. As a small 501(c)(3) nonprofit, we depend on community partners to help us preserve, record, and share Troutdale's history. Our heartfelt thanks to John and Matt Leamy and the entire team at MPI for helping bring these stories to life! Thank you all, Troutdale's history is more vibrant than ever!

A Message from the President of THS



Jeff Neiger

What a wonderful surprise to rediscover the beautiful Kathy Allegri mural "Once Upon the Quicksand" hidden behind the wall in the barn museum! It was perfectly preserved and protected by Greg Handy and is now displayed for all to enjoy. Our "Step Back in Time" THS trek to Champoeg included guided tours of pioneer homes and living history demonstrations topped off by a pie eating contest where Jamie LaCour took one for the team! Just several days later we toured the Robert M. Richmond Memorial Library & Museum in Forest Grove, and then received a guided tour of the neighboring McMenamins Grand Lodge. We also were inspired by Annie Ruth Bramhall performing in the Harlow House on the very organ she played as a young woman! Upcoming events include Yarn at the barn October 7th, Oregon State Grange History Pub at McMenamins Edgefield October 12th, and THS Presents: Streets, Structures, and Stories October 18th. Thank you all!

THS President,
Jeff Neiger

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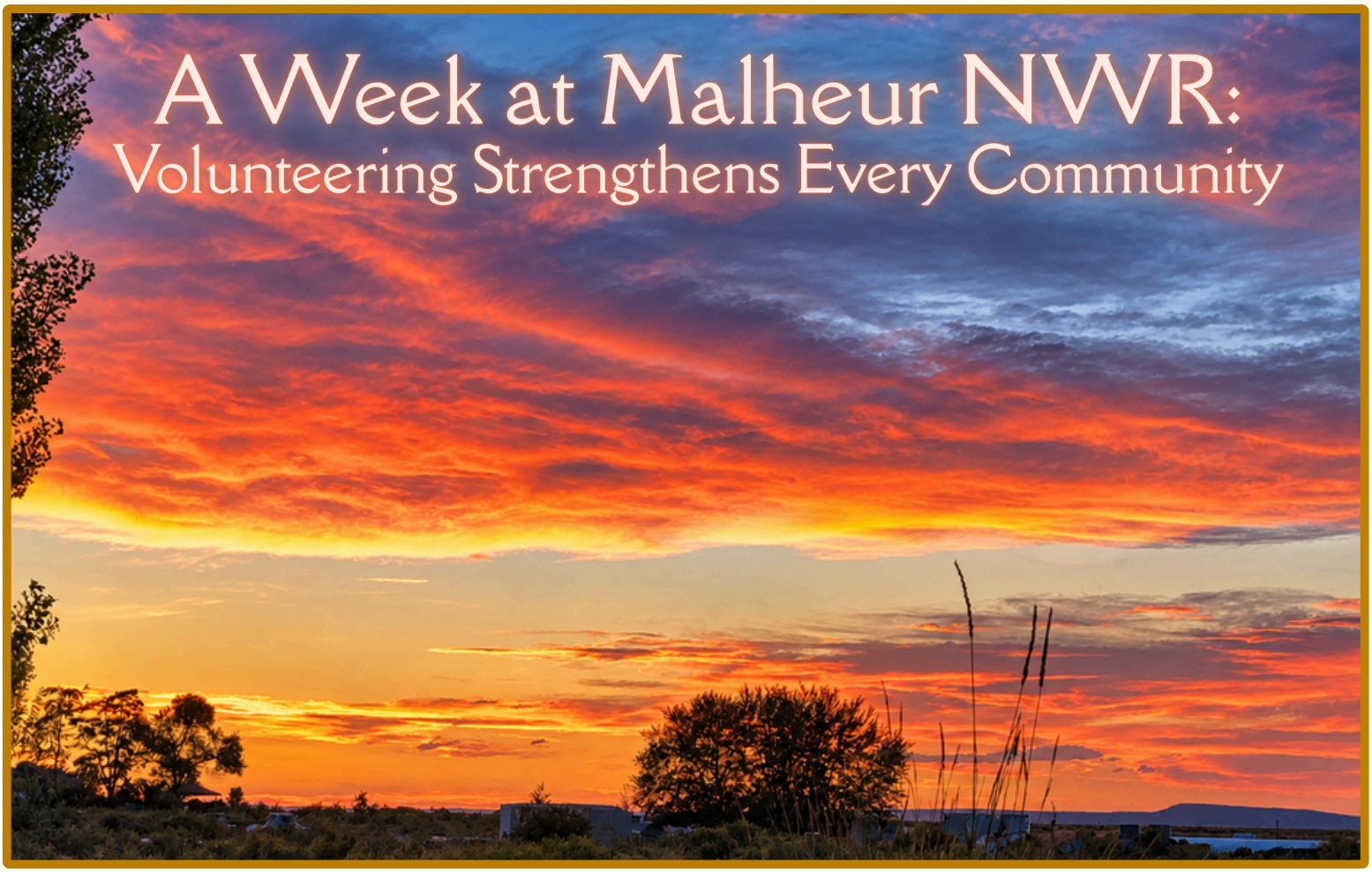
Executive Director
Chris L. Garza

Once Upon the Quicksand:
A Piece of THS History Returns

Sometimes history waits behind a wall. On August 24, a portion of ***Once Upon the Quicksand*** returned to public view at the Barn Exhibit Hall Museum after more than a decade behind a protective wall in the Mershon Legacy Wing. Painted in 2003 by **Kathy Delumpa Allegri**, the mural was commissioned by THS for ***Quicksand & Condors: Lewis and Clark near the Sandy River Basin***, an exhibit created for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. With help from THS curators and Dave Ripma in accessing expedition journals, Kathy researched what Lewis and Clark recorded about the Sandy River area. She also wanted the mural to tell a much older story. Indigenous peoples had lived along the Columbia and Sandy rivers for thousands of years, drawing food, medicine, transportation, and shelter from the land and waterways. Salmon, Wapato, and other resources sustained communities, while Chinookan peoples of the lower Columbia took part in extensive trade networks. Lewis and Clark traveled through an Indigenous homeland, and Kathy made that truth central to her work. She portrayed the First People as caretakers of the land, "standing tall and proud at the banks of the Sandy." Before completing and sealing the mural, she consulted friends at Warm Springs and waited for their approval. In the section now visible, visitors can discover salmon, deer, geese, ducks, wapato, berries, licorice fern, forests, and sandy riverbanks. There is so much to notice that a visitor could return to the mural several times and find something new with each look. Kathy later added ghostlike sepia figures of Sacagawea and her infant son, Jean Baptiste "Pompey" Charbonneau, and York, the enslaved Black member of the expedition. Only one of the mural's three walls has been uncovered so far. The other two protective walls currently provide space for artifacts, photographs, and storyboards in our rotating exhibits. We hope to find a way to reveal the rest of Kathy's work while retaining the space needed to share stories from the THS collection. Seeing the mural again 23 years after Kathy painted it is a gift. She gave THS her research, her perspective, and her respect for the people who came before us, all expressed through her art. Her work invites us to look beyond a familiar expedition story and pay attention to the people and place that were here long before it. Kathy, thank you for the talent and heart you brought to our museum. One wall is telling its story again, and we hope the others can join it someday. Welcome back, Once Upon the Quicksand!



A Week at Malheur NWR:
Volunteering Strengthens Every Community



When Len and Gloria Otto traveled to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge for their first volunteer experience there, they expected hard work, beautiful scenery, and plenty of opportunities to enjoy their shared fascination with birds. They found all three, but the week also showed them how much work remains after a wildfire is extinguished. Len and Gloria have long supported organizations they care about through volunteer service and donations, including the Troutdale Historical Society. At Malheur, they arrived ready to help wherever they were needed. Their first day began with an orientation led by Ian Snyder, conservation stewardship technician for the Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Soon they were working in the Rock Garden, clearing invasive plants, trimming overgrown vegetation, and improving access before an upcoming volunteer work party. That evening, everyone gathered in the shared kitchen for a taco dinner. As the volunteers ate and got to know one another, a massive dust storm rolled through, carrying ash, smoke, dust, and soil. It eventually gave way to a remarkable sunset, but the ash was a reminder of the burned landscape nearby. The next morning, Len and Gloria received a different assignment. The Stubble Fire had burned more than 15,000 acres in and around the refuge during the summer of 2026. With much of the vegetation gone, old T-posts, barbed wire, and other hazards lay exposed. Len and Gloria joined refuge staff to remove them. They worked for hours in temperatures reaching the low 90s, crossing ash-covered ground and watching their footing around sharp, burned sagebrush. Some posts were lodged so firmly in the baked clay that they were nearly impossible to pull free. Farther along, they followed strands of rusty barbed wire for hundreds of yards, cutting, pulling, and coiling it section by section. The work was slow and tiring, but its purpose was clear: abandoned wire can entangle elk, deer, and other animals, leaving them injured or unable to survive. **~ Cont. on Page 4**



Continued from Page 3

A wildfire's effects continue long after the flames are out. Fire can destroy habitat, expose hidden dangers, damage soil, and leave years of cleanup and restoration ahead. Smoke and ash can reach communities far from the burned area, too. That lesson resonates in Troutdale, at the western entrance to the Columbia River Gorge. The Eagle Creek Fire of 2017 came dangerously close to our community and remains a vivid reminder of how wildfire affects wildlife, public lands, historic places, local businesses, and the people who care for them. Len and Gloria spent the rest of their week helping with trail and garden projects, including restoring access through an overgrown pollinator garden. Each task addressed a particular need. Together, the volunteers' efforts made the refuge safer, healthier, and more welcoming. The same is true here at home. At the Troutdale Historical Society, docents welcome visitors, collections volunteers care for artifacts, gardeners tend museum grounds, researchers uncover stories, and event helpers and committee members bring programs to life. Much of this work happens quietly, one person and one task at a time, but it allows THS to preserve our community's history and share it with others. Whether someone can give a full week or just an hour, their time matters. Len and Gloria's experience at Malheur is a reminder that caring for a place means showing up for the work it needs. Volunteers do that at the refuge, throughout Troutdale, and in our museums every day. *Read Len and Gloria's firsthand account of their trip online at www.TroutdaleHistory.org/VolunteerCorner

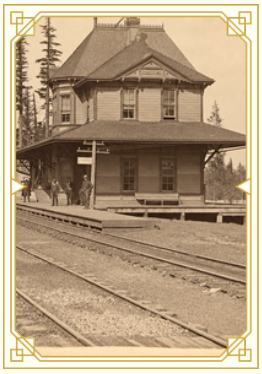




Work is underway to restore access along the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail between Eagle Creek and Cascade Locks. The section has been closed since heavy rain in December 2025 triggered the Ruckel Creek landslide east of the Eagle Creek Fish Hatchery. The landslide buried portions of the paved trail beneath debris measuring up to 12 feet deep, including large boulders, fallen trees, soil, and other material. ODOT began clearing the debris on September 9, 2026, using heavy equipment in the affected area between Bonneville and Cascade Locks. Crews must remove the material before the full condition of the buried trail can be assessed. Even after the pavement is exposed, the stability of the slope above it will be an important factor in determining when visitors can safely return. The trail remains closed from the Eagle Creek Trailhead to Cascade Locks at the Bridge of the Gods. Visitors should not enter the closed section or attempt to pass through the active work zone. Bicyclists may detour using Interstate 84, but no safe alternate route is currently available for hikers. Those planning a trip should account for the closure before setting out, especially if they intend to travel the trail from one end to the other. After the debris is removed, the U.S. Forest Service will inspect the trail and evaluate the stability of the surrounding slope before a reopening decision is made. ODOT expects debris removal to be completed this fall, although no reopening date has been announced. Several state, federal, and local agencies are cooperating on the project. Visitors should check official updates before planning travel through this portion of the King of Roads. Source: ODOT

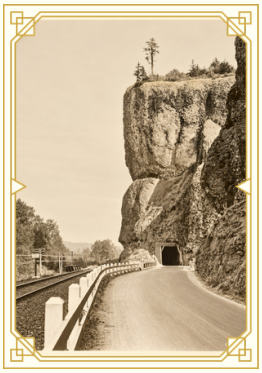


JUST THE OTHER DAY



1882 — Rails Reach Troutdale

On November 20, 1882, a railroad line opened through what is now Troutdale and continued east through the Columbia River Gorge. Captain John Harlow successfully pressed railroad officials to establish a depot near his townsite, helping transform the small settlement into an important transportation and shipping center.



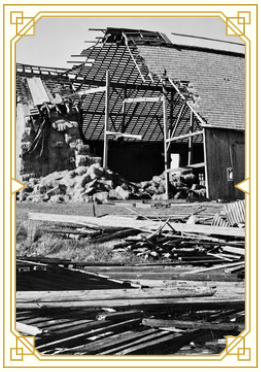
1926 — The King Gets a Number

On November 11, 1926, the nation's new numbered highway system officially designated the route through the Columbia River Gorge as part of U.S. Route 30. A century later, the Historic Columbia River Highway remains one of Troutdale's defining landmarks and one of America's most celebrated scenic roads.



1941 — Aluminum for Victory

In November 1941, bulldozers entered the fields of Sundial Ranch just north of Troutdale to prepare for an aluminum reduction plant. Six months later, Alcoa (later Reynold's Aluminum) was producing metal used in World War II aircraft. The plant reshaped local employment, housing, schools, and the future of the entire community.



1962 — The Big Blow

On October 12, 1962, the Columbus Day Storm struck the Pacific Northwest with extraordinary force. Trees fell, buildings were damaged, and power and telephone service failed throughout the region. For famously windy Troutdale, the storm became an unforgettable reminder of the destructive power of autumn weather.



1976 — The Depot for a Dollar

Threatened with demolition after nearly seventy years of service, Troutdale's historic railroad depot found new hope in 1976. Union Pacific sold the building to the City of Troutdale for just one dollar, and the Troutdale Historical Society led the effort to save it. Fifty years later, it remains part of our museum campus.

Sources: Troutdale Historical Society Archives - City of Troutdale Records - Historic Oregon Newspapers - The Gresham Outlook - The Oregonian - Multnomah County Archives - Oregon Historical Society Research Library - The Oregon Encyclopedia - Oregon State Archives - Library of Congress Digital Collections.

FROM THE COLLECTION

The Edison Triumph Phonograph



Before playlists, streaming services, or even radio, recorded entertainment could arrive on a wax cylinder. The Edison Triumph Phonograph in the Troutdale Historical Society collection represents a remarkable early chapter in recorded sound. Introduced around 1900, the Triumph was one of Edison's larger cylinder phonographs. Its powerful three-spring motor provided extended operation between windings, while the mechanism was housed in a substantial wooden cabinet with a removable domed lid. Our example bears serial number 66058, and its patent plate lists dates ranging from October 27, 1898, through January 30, 1906. To play a recording, the operator placed a hollow cylinder over the machine's rotating mandrel, wound the motor, lowered the reproducer, and started the mechanism. A stylus followed a spiral groove cut into the cylinder's surface, causing a diaphragm to vibrate. An attached horn then amplified the sound mechanically, without electricity. Edison's first phonograph, demonstrated in 1877, recorded sound on tinfoil. Wax cylinders appeared during the following decade and became commercially available with Edison phonographs in 1889. Early commercial cylinders commonly held about two minutes of music, speeches, comedy, or other performances. Wax cylinders could also be used to make original recordings. Sound vibrations guided a cutting stylus that carved a groove directly into the rotating wax surface, allowing a phonograph to serve as both a player and a recorder. Today, surviving cylinders preserve voices and performances that might otherwise have disappeared, and thousands of these historic recordings have been digitized for modern listeners.

***Donated by Robert Douglass 1993**

Sources: Library of Congress, History of the Cylinder Phonograph – UC Santa Barbara Library, Cylinder Audio Archive – Powerhouse Collection, Evolution of Edison Phonographs – Intertique, Edison Triumph Phonograph





Guess This Item from the Collection! Take a close look… any guesses? Small but mighty, this hand-operated gadget once helped people achieve a fashionable finishing touch. Its metal body, spring-loaded lever, adjustable knob, and slender wire were designed for careful, controlled work. Patented during the 1930s, it belonged closer to a dressing table than a workshop. What is it, really?

Last Issue's Answer:

The item is a hand-cranked clothes wringer, also called a laundry mangle. Clamped to a washtub or bench, it pressed wet clothing between wooden rollers to remove excess water before drying. Side springs maintained pressure, while mounting screws held the device securely. It likely dates from the late nineteenth-century period.

THS Trek 2026: Champoeg











The THS Trek 2026 was a day filled with history, laughter, and adventure! Our travelers gathered at the Columbia Gorge Outlets before boarding a comfortable Viewpoint Coachlines bus and heading to Champoeg. Upon arrival, we were graciously welcomed by volunteers from the Oregon State Society Daughters of the American Revolution, who treated our group to a fascinating tour of the Newell Pioneer Homes and historic jail. Afterward, everyone enjoyed lunch and joined the festivities at the annual Champoeg Village Faire. The afternoon offered plenty of fun, including a pie-eating contest featuring our very own Jamie LaCour! Each traveler received a goodie bag filled with treats and a special booklet created by THS featuring historical articles, photographs, trivia, information, and crossword puzzles for the journey. We also gave away two wonderful door-prize packages. One included two autographed books by local historian Clarence Mershon, while the second featured a signed copy of The Ghost Towns of Bridal Veil Creek by local author Tom Cowling and Audacious Escapes by Marc Paulsen. Both packages also contained beautiful greeting cards, postcards, and stationery created by local artists. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the day so memorable! Keep watching for the destination of our next adventure, THS Trek 2027 is already being planned. We promise another exciting day of history, fun, snacks, and camaraderie at the lowest possible cost!







Volunteer Spotlight



Ann Chatterton: A Prescription for Service

Since moving to Troutdale in 2011, Ann Chatterton has developed a deep appreciation for our community's history, beauty, and people. Ann holds an MSc and BSN and has devoted more than 30 years to adult health as a registered nurse. Fortunately for THS, she also brings that same compassion, dedication, and experience to everything she does for us. Ann joined the Board of Directors in 2024 and currently serves as our secretary, a Barn Exhibit Hall docent, and a member of the 3M Committee. She is also quick to lend a hand wherever one is needed. Ann has a remarkable talent for turning challenges into opportunities through her thoughtful troubleshooting, positive outlook, and practical problem-solving skills. We are tremendously grateful for Ann's service, friendship, and genuine care for THS and the entire Troutdale community. Thank you, Ann!

Membership Drive 2026

Troutdale's history is worth preserving, and you can help! Join the Troutdale Historical Society during our End-of-Year Membership Drive, October 1 through December 31, 2026, and enjoy a special price while supporting the museums and programs that share our past. Individual Memberships are $15 (regularly $20), Family Memberships are $25 (regularly $30), and Lovers Oak Memberships are $80 (regularly $100). Every membership includes 10% off gift shop merchandise at Meger's Trading Post, $10 off an Oregon Historical Society membership, a printed copy of our quarterly newsletter, *ByGone Times,* discounted tickets for our annual *THS Trek*, and exclusive offers throughout the year. Individual members receive free admission for one person to all three Troutdale museums; Family Memberships cover up to two family members. Lovers Oak members receive family admission and an invitation to our annual *Lovers Oak Luncheon*, featuring a history program. There is always a reason to come back! New rotating exhibits at all three museums will reveal more of Troutdale's story each year. Your membership also supports *History Pubs* at McMenamins Edgefield, *THS Presents* at the Sam Cox Building, our *Local Author Book Signing, Stories & Smiles with Santa, Columbia Kids Club,* and the annual *THS Trek.* It helps care for our collections and keeps history accessible to future generations. New members who join during the drive will renew at the regular price after twelve months. Already a current member? Renew during the drive at the special price, and we'll add twelve months to your current expiration date. To join or renew, visit the "Shop" section at www.TroutdaleHistory.org, stop by the Barn Exhibit Hall Museum Thursday through Sunday, noon to 3:00 p.m., or complete the membership form on the back of this issue of ByGone Times. Join us and help write Troutdale's next chapter!

Upcoming Programs & Events

History Pubs at McMenamins Edgefield

Blackberry Hall

2126 SW Halsey St, Troutdale, OR 97060

Doors at 6:00 pm / Program at 7:00 pm / $5

Monday, October 12th 2026

Oregon State Grange: Serving Communities for 150 Years

Presented by Marilyn Reiher

Discover Oregon's Grange movement, founded in 1872 and once encompassing more than 300 communities and 30,000 members. Author and historian Marilyn Reiher explains how Granges influenced politics and continue serving communities today. Reiher wrote Oregon State Grange: Serving Communities for 150 Years and formerly led Winona Grange for eight years.

Monday, November 9th 2026

From Forest to Faucet: How the Bull Run Watershed Built Portland

Presented by *Joshua Jeffery*

In the 1890s, Portland turned to the Bull Run Watershed for clean drinking water after sewage contaminated its supply. At this History Pub, historian Joshua Ward Jeffery will share how the protected watershed shaped the city. Jeffery spent ten years working at Bull Run, including six leading Portland's Watershed Ranger Unit.

Yarn at the Barn

Barn Exhibit Hall Museum

732 E. Historic Columbia River Highway, Troutdale, OR 97060

Program starts at 10:00 am until Noon / FREE

Wednesday – Nov 4th – Dec 2nd

Presented by *Jamie LaCour*

Get creative with us! Our free fiber arts program meets on the first Wednesday of every month from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Barn Exhibit Hall. Whether you are learning a new skill, sharing techniques, or simply enjoying time with crafters, everyone ages 14 and older is welcome. Beginner supplies are provided. Keep your eyes open and check our website events calendar and social media for the upcoming fiber arts crochet class announcement!

THS Presents:

Sam Cox Building at Glenn Otto Park

1106 E Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR 97060

Doors at 1:00 pm / Program at 2:00 pm / FREE

Sunday, October 18th 2026

Streets, Structures, & Stories

Discover the history hiding in plain sight! Join the Troutdale Historical Society as we explore some of the historic homes, buildings, and streets that have helped shape Troutdale. Learn about familiar landmarks, how our community has changed over the years, and the people and stories connected to the places we see every day. Come discover the streets, structures, and stories that make Troutdale's history unique!

Welcome to THS!
New Members Since August

Thomas Richard - Megan Richard - Teri Herzog - Susan Krebs - Steve Hamilton
Sabrina Austin - Neal Otto - Melissa Preston - Alena Savage - Melba Klinker

Mission Sponsors

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our Corporate, Business, and In-Kind Sponsors. Their generosity helps the Troutdale Historical Society preserve, record, and share the stories that make our community special. We are grateful for their partnership and commitment to Troutdale's history. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor at any level, email Director@TroutdaleHistory.org or visit www.TroutdaleHistory.org for more information.

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Troutdale Historical Society

Preserving the Past, Embracing the Future...

Choose the membership that fits you: Individual covers one person; Family covers two; and Lovers Oak covers two, plus an annual Lovers Oak Luncheon and private history presentation. Every membership includes free admission to our three Troutdale museums, 10% off gift shop merchandise, a mailed or emailed copy of our quarterly ByGone Times newsletter, and $10 off an Oregon Historical Society membership.

Memberships

- ☐ $15 Gift Membership given by: _____ (Current Member Name) *Must be a current member to purchase.
- ☐ $20 Individual Membership
- ☐ $30 Family Membership
- ☐ $100 Lovers Oak Membership
- ☐ $1000 Captain's Circle Membership ~ Lifetime

Sponsorships

- ☐ $250 Business Sponsor
- ☐ $500 Corporate Sponsor

ByGone Times Newsletter

- ☐ Digital copy by Email
- ☐ Printed copy by mail *

*By checking Email, I expressly consent to receive emails from the Troutdale Historical Society containing quarterly ByGone Times issues, upcoming events and programs, and special announcements. I may unsubscribe at any time.

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Questions? Contact Us!

Phone: 503-661-2164
Email: TroutdaleHistory@gmail.com
Website: www.TroutdaleHistory.org

Donations are tax deductible.
THS is a 501(c)3 non-profit
Federal Tax ID #93-0738777

Support THS with a Donation

- ☐ General Operating Fund: $_____ Your donation helps cover the everyday operating costs that keep the Troutdale Historical Society running.
- ☐ OCF Endowment Fund: $_____ Your donation is invested with the Oregon Community Foundation, THS receives a small percentage annualy.
- ☐ In Memory of Donation: $_____ In Memory of Name: _____
- ☐ $200 Memorial Plaque / Name: _____ Memorial plaque placed in the Barn Exhibit Hall.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Credit Card #: _____

Exp. Date: _____ CVV: _____ Total Amount: $ _____

(Visa, Master Card, Discover, American Express)

Thank You for your Support!

BGT-MD2026

Troutdale Historical Society
Troutdale, OR 97060

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Troutdale, OR, 97060

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Troutdale, OR, 97060

Phone: 503-661-2164
Email: Troutdalehistory@gmail.com
Website: www.TroutdaleHistory.org

The Troutdale Historical Society is organized and shall be operated exclusively to gather, preserve and make available museum, record, and other material relating to the history of the community of Troutdale, the northern portion of the Sandy River, and nearby areas to stimulate an interest in, and knowledge of the locality's past.