



BYGONE TIMES

Newsletter of the Troutdale Historical Society

April 2006

Please Mark Your Calendars

THS Program/Meeting

1948 Flood

Bring Photos & Stories

*Sun., Apr. 23, 2006
2 p.m. City Hall*

Annual Tea & Tour

Sun., April 30, 2006

2:00 p.m. ONLY

Menucha

Annual Cemetery Tour

Sat., May 20, 2006

*Oregon City area Cemetery Tour led by
Stan Clarke*

*Leave from the Depot
At Noon*

Ice Cream Social

Sat., June 3

*Mayors Square
Downtown Troutdale*

On Memorial Day weekend in 1948, the dike that held back the Columbia River was breached by flood waters. The resulting flood wiped out the town of Vanport and covered the low lying farms in East County. It also threatened the Troutdale Aluminum Plant.

To provide a forum for reminiscences about this flood, The Troutdale Historical Society will host a program covering this topic.

The program will be moderated by THS member Len Otto, who will provide a PowerPoint program of historic photos from the THS collection. Not only will Len share photos of the flood, he will ask audience members to share their memories and photos, too.

Those who were not in Troutdale in 1948 will be surprised to discover just how high the waters of the Sandy River and Beaver Creek rose. The Old Columbia River Highway was inundated almost as far "up town" as the City Hall. The families who lived along the Sandy River and Beaver Creek were forced to leave their homes. The Troutdale Sand & Gravel Company's bunkers were flooded as was the home of the owners Margaret and Dick Knarr.

If you attend the program and have photos or stories you would like to share, please feel free to do so. This program will be recorded to create a historical record. Copies of the video tape will be available for purchase from the THS office for \$15 each.

Please note that the normal meeting date has been moved due to Easter Sunday. We will meet at 2 p.m. on April 23, 2006 at the Troutdale City Hall, 104 SE Kibling St., Troutdale, Oregon. The program is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.



From the Harlow House, houses across the road during the 1948 Flood

2006 Tea and Tour: Remember to return your invitations with full payment to reserve your place(s). We have scheduled only one seating at 2 p.m. on Sunday April 30.

The tea is being held at Menucha Retreat Center in the Columbia River Gorge which will provide a beautiful backdrop for our annual tea. After the tea, those who attend will be treated to a tour of the Menucha buildings. At one time, Menucha was owned by Julius Meiers of the Meier and Frank Department Store

In Memory....



Alice With Santa (Bob Mitchoff)
Christmas 1977

Alice Ruth Wand, a true Troutdale/Corbett historian and our member of the year in 1997, died March 14 at her home on Cabbage Hill at the age of 90.

She always sat in the front row at our historical society programs so she could hear. She never missed any meeting or event if she could help it. Her interest was an inspiration," said former Troutdale Historical Society president David Ripma.

Alice and her husband, Ig, brought a fund of memories to the Troutdale Historical Society. She was 19 and he was 31 when they married in 1934 and moved to the Wand family homestead on Chamberlain Hill, also known as Cabbage Hill and Staggerweed Mountain, east of the Sandy River.

They had met at his vegetable stand in Troutdale. She was, remembers Walter Nasmyth, who worked for her father, a "pretty young blonde." Ig, short for Ignatius, appreciated that and gave her some withered lemons too old to sell. She made a lemon pie. That would be Alice, for sure.

She was the child of German immigrants. Elsa and Joachim Suhr founded Suhr's Flower Farm a mile east of 12-Mile Corner on Stark Street.

"My mother was very frugal. After we got enough money they bought 12 acres (in Troutdale). They raised raspberries and then she started out with her hobby

of a little leaflet of rhubarb roots, gladioli, raspberry roots and dahlias and melon. Then they moved to Stark Street and went on from there," Alice remembered in a 1981 interview.

They grew roses and had a variety of other nursery stock, bedding plants and rock plants. In addition Elsa Suhr made floral arrangements for funerals and other occasions without the aid of refrigeration.

Alice grew up working on the flower farm, attending Troutdale School and graduating from Gresham High School in 1933.

Ignatius B. Wand and Alice were married on Aug. 16, 1934. They moved to the Wand farm to an unfinished house with no electricity or running water and with a privy out back. They had eight babies in 14 years. They hauled household water in five-gallon milk cans, heating it on a wood stove. She carried her laundry to her mother-in-law's house where there was a gas-powered washing machine.

Alice would say later that they intentionally had a large family. It was less to do with being Catholic, she said, than that the two agreed early in their courtship that they wanted a lot of babies.

Though Ig had completed only an eighth grade education at Pleasant View school, he and Alice spent a lifetime learning. He became an electrician. "Working out," Alice called it, meaning working away from the farm. Cabbage and potatoes were shipped out of Troutdale on rail cars. Ig Wand was a member of Troutdale Vegetable growers.

Alice Wand drew on that knowledge to present histories of the two surviving vegetable sheds in Troutdale. One became Caswell Gallery, which are in the agriculture chapter. The other at the east end of Troutdale near the Troutdale Rail Depot Museum served at various times as an antique mall, art gallery and brewery/restaurant.

The family, 10 in all, were snowed in for six weeks at their Springdale home in the winter of 1949-1950, but Alice Wand said that is was a pleasure, "that it was the most fun of the year, we just had a great time."

A 4-H member since the fourth grade, Alice Wand became a 4-H leader in elementary school, launching clubs and working with her own and neighbors' children when she matured. She was a member of the 4-H advisory council and earned an award for 50 years of service.

Her mother-in-law introduced her to the Columbian Extension Group where she took classes in cooking, household skills and even lessons on how to make a mattress. She was an extension member for 72 years.

"Extension was mom's way of going to college," said her son, Dave Wand. She attended senior writing classes at Mt. Hood Community College for more than 20 years and became a member of the Columbia Basket Guild working in pine needle basketry. She also revived the art of making beads from rose petals and demonstrated the craft for the Troutdale Historical Society.



Alice with David Ripma
Sandy Delta Tour 1977

Lewis & Clark Farewell Event Draws Many Folks

It was a cloudy day with nice sun breaks just like the few days that Lewis & Clark spent on the Quicksand River 200 years ago. The L & C committee had their last big hurrah for the bicentennial celebration, with at least 400 people attending the event held on April 1, 2006. The Lewis and Clark exhibit will remain in The Barn Museum for at least the rest of this year. The exhibit is open on weekends from 1 to 4 p.m., and the days will be extended to Wed. through Sun. starting in June.

Adrienne Clausen, our volunteer host coordinator schedules and trains our museum hosts....if you can spare a three hour block of time, once a month or so, please let us know, because more hosts are always appreciated and will help Adrienne with the hard work of filling the schedule.

The **Bruno** family displayed art work and the teenagers danced in full costume to the delight of the audience. **Merna DeBolt** portrayed Meriwether Lewis' mother, tearfully proclaiming her steadfast belief that her son was murdered. The guests loved her. Artist, **Gary Gukesein** signed copies of his original poster that the THS commissioned him to do for this exhibit. The Troutdale Postmaster, **Steve Kaufman** post-marked envelopes on the spot. This occasion was well received, as there are many collectors of first edition postmarks. Envelopes with this unique cancellation are available for sale for \$5 at the Depot while supplies last. Antique gun collector and expert, **Mike Carrick** had a crowd around him all day. **Roger Wendlick**, who portrayed George Druillard drew people, especially children to listen to his tales of being on this memorable journey. He had replica guns to hold, pelts to touch and salmon to taste.

The Harlow House Museum and Rail Depot museum also had a continuous stream of visitors from 9:30 a.m. til 4 p.m. due to the event.

We heard nothing but praise for our efforts and that is always nice and makes for a successful affair. Many thanks go to all of the volunteers who put so much time and energy into this event, including **Ray Davenport**, the L & C committee chair, **Jean Hybskmann**, who helped so much with this event even while she is in the midst of organizing the Tea and Tour, **Jerry Hybskmann** and **Mike Dubesa**, who helped set up and take down the tent, offered folks rides who parked at the Depot and park.....they drove around in circles all day (and according to Mike were looking forward to going home to "unwind") and **Scott Cunningham**, who helped with **Heather Hutzenbiler** all day in the



Merna Debolt

"store" area selling our merchandise, **Frank Craddick**, who helped greet folks and direct traffic all day, **Adrienne Clausen**, who organized the volunteers and held the Harlow House open all day, **Jean Holman**, even though she is still recuperating from surgery spent the day helping, **Jack Russell** and **Neil Robbins**, who helped Sheryl at the Depot, **Bill Barrett**, who was a tremendous help setting up and taking down the tent and then helping throughout the day, **Kirnen Steinhauer**, who donates services and also helped out all day and took photos, **Steve Adams**, who provided the free gravel and spreading that made a nice area for the tent, **Michelle Rosenberger**, who always steps up to the plate to make the grounds lovely for events, **Ed Thiemann**, who donates all of the tables, chairs, the large tent and then also attends the planning meetings, helps set up, volunteers all day and helps take down and clean up, **Dr. Jim Gurtisen**, who completed the shelter for the cedar log canoe, **Bill White**, **Gary Randall**, who put the whole postal cancellation project together for us, **Mario Ayala**, who hauled all of the merchandise back and forth from the Depot for the event, and the entire **Bruno Family**, who stayed, helped take down the tent and helped us clean everything up and pack everything away.

We are so fortunate to have so many wonderful volunteers.....hope we didn't miss thanking someone here.....if so please accept our humble apology and let us know about it.

Troutdale turns 100 in 2007

We have a few folks that have volunteered so far to work on the 100th celebration of our City. If you know someone who is interested and willing, please contact the THS office. The City of Troutdale will be in charge of the event, with help from volunteers from THS, the Chamber, Lions Club, etc.

Terry Huston, formerly **Belnap**, who chaired the Ice Cream Social a few years ago and did a wonderful job has offered to help with the centennial celebration.

Terry also sent along some news for our members. Longtime Troutdale teacher **Sally Lindholm** is in a nursing home in Boise, Idaho. Former students who would like to send her a note can do so c/o

Valley View Nursing
1130 N. Allumbaugh
Boise, ID 83704

Horse Shoes Anyone?

Len Otto was visiting Troutdale Elementary and spoke with the head custodian **Gary Bush**. Gary found some horse shoes while doing some cleaning behind a shelf, and they are the game kind of horse shoes, not the shoeing kind.

We are wondering where they might have come from? Len remembers being a student there, and during that time they didn't play that particular game. Does anyone have a story or two to share about horseshoe games at the school in the "old days"?

Farmers Market Starts May 6 in Depot Park

We are looking forward to the market being held near the Depot this year.... Because families who come to the market will also have the opportunity to learn about our society and museums. We will need more volunteers to have the Depot open longer hours on those days....so please call the office if you are interested in helping out.

Harlow House Roof Needs Our Attention

If you walk the pathway along the west side of the Harlow House and look up, you can see the awful damage the weather did to the second story portion of the roof this winter. Volunteer **Dave Munson** has been keeping an eye out for leaks and he's collected some bids and other information from roofers. The aluminum shingles were installed in the fifties, we believe. They were put on top of two other roofing layers. It seems that the base under the roofing layers is spaced sheathing (lath).

The recommendations from roofers who've looked at it is to remove all existing roofing, inspect for dry rot, install new sheathing, felt underlayment and architectural shingles, similar to those we've put on the barn.

The estimates range from \$12,000 to \$15,000. We are looking for grant opportunities to help with the cost and probably will need to do a fundraiser to help with the expense.

We hope to get grant applications submitted soon and the funds together to solve the problem by this summer.

News about Dues and the Newsletter

Heartfelt thanks to all who so promptly sent in their dues. A special thank you to **Bill Day**, from **Tickle-Creek Design**, who has agreed to convert our newsletter into a .pdf file every month, so that we can post it on the website and send links to members on our email list. We tested it out last month with a sampling of members and they were all pleased with the results. SO....those of you with email will be getting a notice with a link to the newsletter. Many folks have told us that they would rather receive the newsletter electronically and help reduce the printing and mailing expenses.

Mindy Schmidt, Mindy Schmidt Imaging Services, has been mastering our web site and is ready to post the newsletters, as soon as we send them to her. A special thank you goes to Mindy for her above and beyond work. She's been sending out the notices and announcements for us, and did an especially lovely job on the Alice Wand notice.

With the help of Bill and Mindy, we are going to be able to reduce some expenses and be pretty high tech for a bunch of old history buffs.

When you see them, please thank them.....We appreciate their support.

Thomas A. Graves C.P.A., P.C.

Certified Public Accountant

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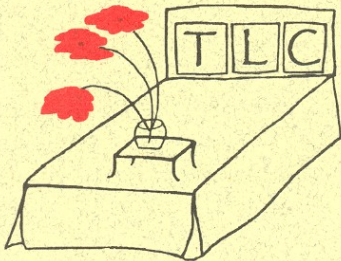
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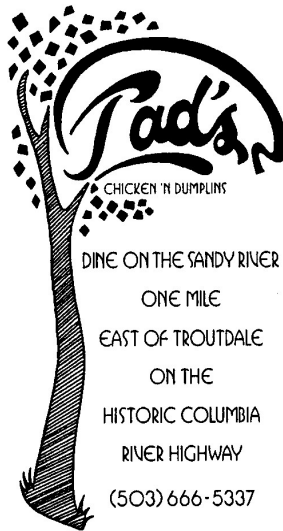
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Our Thanks ... from THS to the following for their support

In Memory...

Of Alice Wand...

Dennis & Mary Bryson, Walter & Vi Nasmyth, Theodore & Velma Norman, Henry & Geneva Kellogg, Frank & Jean Driver, Ivan & June Handy, Crystal Bayley, Frank & Edith Hemingway, Bev & Gary Law, Crystal & Roland Cartisser, Max & Sheryl Maydew, Frieda O'Neil, Tom Cowling, Helen Wand, Patricia Wand, Linda Downs, Judith Mickalson, Nancy J. Nelson, Vern & Myrna Reed, Sharon Nesbit, Lydia Kerslake, Ted & Lorie Dyke, Elizabeth Swartzendruber, Adrienne Clausen

In Memory...

Of Louise Weber...

Dennis & Mary Bryson, Frieda Ryland, Max & Sheryl Maydew



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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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