



BYGONE TIMES

A Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April 2001

Smelt Run Returns!

After an absence of 12 years, history swam back to Troutdale March 13 when the smelt returned to the Sandy River.

Many of Troutdale's newest residents had no idea what was going on, but savvy old timers hunted around barns and out-buildings, tied long-poled dip nets to their cars and set out for the Sandy River. Though the run was spotty and the smelt, in low clear water, were spooky, some people got a limit of 25 pounds within an hour or half hour on Thursday, following the start of the run Tuesday.

Bob Streb, who chaired our smelt run exhibit committee, was delighted to see the fish back. Because Streb has a scientific background, he also explained that it is the result of a change in ocean cycles, in that a cool upwelling of nutrient rich water has



Emerson and Billy Crawford

caused the little fish to make a comeback. Once they flood into the Columbia to spawn and fill the Cowlitz, they then make it to the Sandy.

To accommodate the smelt crowd, THS historians opened up the barn smelt exhibit on the weekend. President David Ripma video taped the run to show at the March 18 meeting. Sharon Nesbit polished up our smelt calendar and distributed it around town. The 12-year absence is not a record. The smelt were gone for 13 years between 1957 and 1971.

And we heard from our members. Nancy Callister Buley wrote, "Made me kind of sad that Roy and Ted and Glenn weren't there to be interviewed. Their souls are probably swimming up-river with the smelt, enjoying the spectacle."

Ike and June Handy: Life in a Gas Station is a Gas



June and Ike Handy

A Gresham Outlook story in June 1940, described the gas station at 146 W. Historic Columbia River Highway as having the cleanest restrooms in the area. It was no exaggeration, because Ike and June Handy lived in the Handy Bros. Service Station in two-room living quarters in front. When they needed their bathroom, they stepped outside and went around the corner, just like their customers.

The Handys, who were grand marshals of our Troutdale Summerfest parade last year, join us in Troutdale City Hall at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 16 for one of our living history interviews.

Please note different day and time. Join us for talk of the days with gasoline at \$1.05 a gal-

lon, gas rationing, a fold-out bed, grease gun fights in the mechanic's bay and bull sessions and donuts on sagging couches in the office.

This interview, conducted by Sharon Nesbit, will be video taped for our oral history collection. It helps in ordering these tapes, skillfully filmed and edited by Charles Jennings, to know how many copies we are likely to sell. Cost is \$15 per tape. If you wish to order one, please call our office before, or after the meeting, at 503-661-2164 and put your name on a list.

Calendar of Events

Monday, April 16

7 p.m. at City Hall

Ike and June Handy Interview

Monday, April 30

2 to 7 p.m.

Egg Cup Exhibit Grand Finale
at the Harlow House

Wednesday, May 2

7 p.m. at the Barn

Board Meeting

Saturday, May 5

11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Tea and Tour

From *Laura* at the Harlow House



I received the following letter from one of our Harlow House Hosts and was asked to put it in the newsletter. I am happy to share:

Dear Historical Society Members:

This is an open letter to all. I wish to express my excitement and deep thanks to the Director Laura Newton, Curator Mary Bryson, The Tuesday Ladies (Jean Holman, Jean Hybskmann, Mona Mitchoff and Barb Welsh), and anyone else left unsaid for the most exciting displays at the Harlow House.

The ruby glass was beautiful and perfect for Christmas and wonderfully displayed. But!! I did not expect to see our lovely Harlow House transformed into a garden of delight and superb beauty as the new display of china and egg cups I saw Saturday, March 3.

We expect to see our museum as rather dull. But this new display is outstanding and should not be missed. I urge every member to please stop by and bring a friend! You will not be disappointed. Again, many thanks for brining the Harlow House to life.
—Adrienne Clausen

Dear Adrienne:

Thank you for your wonderful comments about our last two displays at the Harlow House! Much gratitude goes to Doneva Shepard who provides us with not only the pieces on display, but also with the interpretation behind the pieces. If you missed the grand finale of the ruby glass exhibit, you missed some wonderful Shepard family reminiscences!

As we learned with the ruby glass, each time Doneva comes to the house she brings a little more to display! By the end of the exhibit, there will be much more than there probably was at the beginning. I would plan on attending the finale of the egg portion of the exhibit on April 30, between 2 and 7 p.m. Doneva will again be available for questions and to share about the magnificent hand painted china.

You are absolutely right about Mary Bryson and the *Tuesday Ladies*. They are really the brains and brawn behind the exhibits at the Harlow House! Each week they come prepared with wonderful ideas that make the Harlow House really come alive. I hope, Adrienne, that the days of the dull museum are past—and we couldn't do it without visitors and volunteers like you!

Dull is an adjective - having very little depth of color, lacking in richness. This may describe other museums, but not ours! Stop by & see for yourself!
—Laura

Attention Troutdale Trekkers!

We will take in a bit of art and a bit of the Arctic on our May 12 one-day trip to the Willamette Valley. Our agenda that day includes a trip to Monmouth to the Jensen Arctic Museum on the campus of Western Oregon University. Paul Jensen devoted his life to the people of the Arctic, involving himself with Alaska native villagers whose elders gave him the honorary title of Umialik, Captain of the Ship. His collection is evidence of the Eskimo people's ingenuity and perseverance. Our day also includes a visit to another campus, Willamette University, to the Hallie Ford Museum of Art, which includes contemporary as well as Native American Art.

Our finale will be a visit to the Oregon Garden at Silverton, where much honor is given to our neighbor and historical society supporter, J. Frank Schmidt Jr. The garden will be in the midst of its Master Gardener Day with lots going on and we have arranged a guided tour. Those who cannot walk on the guided tour, may take a tram tour through the garden.

Lunch? You thought we forgot lunch? For that, we board the Willamette Queen for its lunch cruise on the river. The captain, we hear, is also authorized to conduct marriages if anyone is so inclined. We have some other surprises throughout the day, depending on time and weather. Price for this trip—lunch, bus, tips and all admissions is \$65 for members, \$75 for non members. We have room for 40, so make sure you have a spot on the bus by sending your check with name, address, phone number to our address on the back of your newsletter. Our bus leaves Harlow House at 8:30 a.m. on that Saturday and should return by 6 p.m.

Mighty Sternwheelers on the Columbia River

Columbia River historian Keith McCoy arrived at our March 18 meeting portraying a purser on a Columbia River sternwheeler. McCoy, a White Salmon, WA. resident, is author of several books on Columbia River history.

One of his points that struck local historians was the profligate use of wood by the Columbia River boats from their introduction in the 1850s to the end of the sternwheeler period in 1915. The first steamboat on the river, the Beaver, was sent to Dr. John McLoughlin at Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Vancouver. McLoughlin found quickly enough that his crews spent all their time on the river bank chopping wood to feed the hungry boiler of the boat and got rid of it.

McCoy told the audience that a working sternwheeler used four cords of wood per hour, and in a 10-hour day would use 100 cords, that would, in a stack four feet high and four feet deep be longer than the length of a football field. Woodcutters all along the river cut and sold wood to the boats for \$1 a cord. Once steamboats began to ply the river above The Dalles where wood was scarce, local woodcutters supplied tons of cord wood, sending it upriver on sail-driven wood barges.

McCoy also discussed the whistles the steam boats used to signal landings and departures. It reminded Alice Wand that her husband, the late Ig Wand, said that he knew every boat on the river by the sound of its whistle.

Thanks to Helen Wand for arranging the speaker, Florence Baker for phoning duties when our newsletter was delayed, and Jan Vandiver, Helen Wand and Clover Nasmyth for refreshments.



11:20 p.m., Troutdale, Oregon, August 17, 1916

Dear Mary, Faye and Dale:

Not much time to write but must scratch off a little anyhow, the hunters just got back about ten o'clock and just left a few mins ago. They got one deer, and Lynn Monnahan shot it, they are pretty much excited about it, that is the girls are, they look like a bunch of tramps.

There is a train in here now but if I don't get busy on this I won't get it off, it has rained here a little most all day and so cold will almost freeze you, they had a big snow storm in the mountains south of the Dalles suppose that is what makes it so cool here. Didn't have only about 100 crates of berries in tonight account the rain, am afraid you won't get home in time to put up any blackberries as they won't last very much longer, and the pears are getting about ready to pick too. Think we will have all we want on our trees as they look pretty nice and are as large as they were last year.

Well, I am going to have to quit for tonight as it is time to hang the mail. Hope you get a little of the cool weather we are having, and that all are well, and that you are about ready to pack your trunk, for this is sure fine weather to huddle up together, with lots of love and kisses from your lonesome boy and DAD. (A letter from Troutdale Depot employee Newton Parsons to his wife, Mary (both pictured left) and children. Newt died in the 1918 in the Spanish Flu epidemic. His daughter Faye would later marry Sam Harlow.)

5th Tea and Tour

If you haven't received an invitation to our Tea and Tour, please call and let us know and we will send you one. This year's tea is on May 5th at the home of Glenn Densem-Moir in Corbett, named Raven's Lodge. Glenn and her husband Dave live in a home that was once a hunting lodge for a wealthy Seattle dairy family. They have remodeled the house after it had been neglected for many years. Seatings are at 11 and 2, tickets are \$35 (\$25 is tax-deductible).

Harlow House Happenings

The lawn at the Harlow House has been cut several times now and the flowers and trees are beginning to bloom. At dusk, the frogs serenade anyone who takes the time to listen. Several groups visited, including a group from Hood River First Baptist Church, grades 1 thru 7 from Cedar Tree School in Vancouver, Washington, and some wanderers from the smelt run. Those who stopped to see the egg cups were amazed at the sheer number of cups and the hand painted table setting in the dining room.

33rd Ice Cream Social June 2nd and 3rd

Mark your calendars for our next Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social! We are in need of volunteers for the following duties:

- *Serving Ice Cream
- *Scooping Ice Cream
- *Collecting Money
- *Planning Activities for Kids
- *Signage before the event (2 weeks before)
- *Taking down signs on the 4th.

If you are interested, please call Laura at (503) 661-2164.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to March Harlow House Hosts: Adrienne Clausen, Mario Ayala, Sharon Nesbit and Donna McCollister. If you would like more information on volunteering for THS, please call Laura at (503) 661-2164. Volunteer and bring a friend or your kid (young or old!).

GIFTS TO THS

Thank you for your support!

Director's Club

Dennis and Mary Bryson
John Bryson
Evelyn Jacobson
Dick and Judy Knarr
Helen Otto
Dennis and Frieda Ryland
Terry and Jodi Smoke

THS Videos for Sale

The following titles are available for purchase from THS for \$15:

- Helen Althaus Interview
- Berry Growers Interviews
- Ted Binn/Vegetable Growers
- Faye Harlow
- John Nasmyth/Barlow Road
- Ham for Sam (1993)
- Ted Schulte
- Ruth Evans Sunding
- 1985 Troutdale Grade School

Reunion

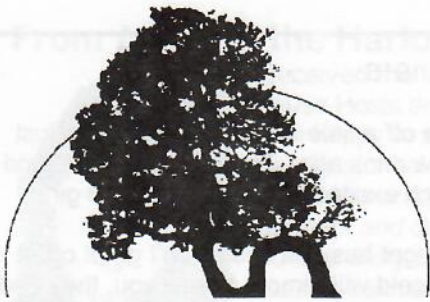
Titles available soon:

- Lady Mayors
- 2000 Cedar School Reunion
- Walt and Herb Nasmyth

Call the Harlow House at (503) 661-2164 if you would like to order a copy for your library. We also have a few of the panoramic picture of Troutdale from the late 1930s/early 1940s for \$10.

Congrats Bev Welker!

Congratulations to former THS photo librarian Beverly Welker. She was married to Robert Potts of Albany, Oregon, on November 11, 2000. Robert is a born and bred Albany resident and a source of local history there. He has published five paperback books of Albany photos, with captions. Beverly says she can't seem to get away from historians. We wish her all the best!



Troutdale Historical Society
 104 S.E. Kibling Street
 Troutdale, OR 97060

**Welcome
 New Members**

Doug and Leslie Daoust
 Thomas and Pamela Fenton
 James and Shereen Gurtisen
 Arlie Harris
 Robert and Delores Lagae
 Clarence and Colleen Mershon
 Cathy Peetz and Family
 Patti and Leroy Smith
 Ken and Lois Zirk

**BULK RATE
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Troutdale Historical Society

Mailing Address

104 S.E. Kibling Street
 Troutdale, OR 97060
 (503) 661-2164
 Fax: (503) 674-2995

E-mail Address

Troutdale_Historical_Society@juno.com

Inside THS

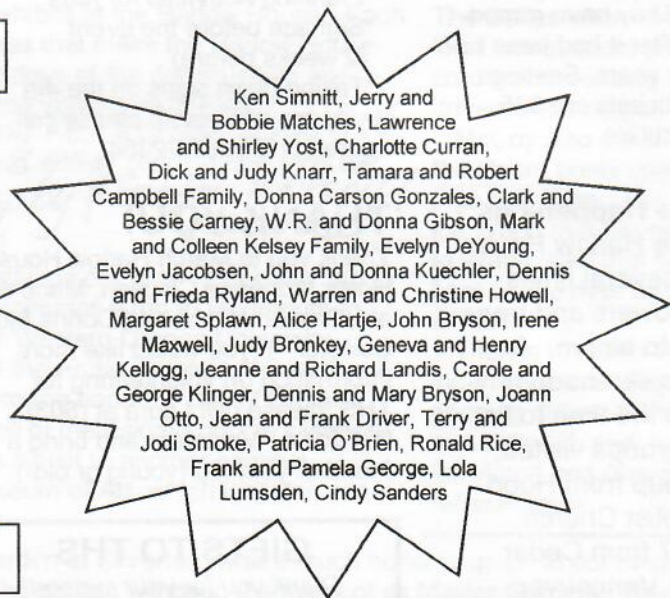
Laura Newton, Director
 Mary Bryson, Curator
 Sharon Nesbit, Historian
 Doneva Shepard, Photo Librarian

Harlow House & Barn

726 E. Historic Columbia River Highway
 Phone: (503) 661-2164
 HOURS: 1 to 4 p.m., Saturday & Sunday

Rail Depot Museum

473 E. Historic Columbia River Highway
 Phone: (503) 667-8268
 HOURS: Closed for the Winter



Ken Simnitt, Jerry and
 Bobbie Matches, Lawrence
 and Shirley Yost, Charlotte Curran,
 Dick and Judy Knarr, Tamara and Robert
 Campbell Family, Donna Carson Gonzales, Clark and
 Bessie Carney, W.R. and Donna Gibson, Mark
 and Colleen Kelsey Family, Evelyn DeYoung,
 Evelyn Jacobsen, John and Donna Kuechler, Dennis
 and Frieda Ryland, Warren and Christine Howell,
 Margaret Splawn, Alice Hartje, John Bryson, Irene
 Maxwell, Judy Bronkey, Geneva and Henry
 Kellogg, Jeanne and Richard Landis, Carole and
 George Klinger, Dennis and Mary Bryson, Joann
 Otto, Jean and Frank Driver, Terry and
 Jodi Smoke, Patricia O'Brien, Ronald Rice,
 Frank and Pamela George, Lola
 Lumsden, Cindy Sanders

**Renewing
 Members
 Thank
 you**

Did you remember to renew your membership?

It's never too late! Mail your check today!

\$12 for individual membership,

\$15 for couples, and \$20 for families.

Or, join the Director's Club: \$50 for individuals/\$75 a couple.