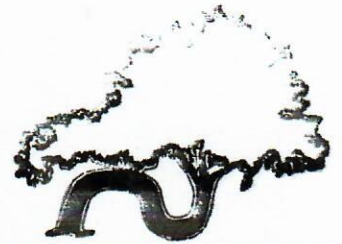


Bygone Times

A Newsletter of The Troutdale Historical Society.



DECEMBER, 1989

EDITOR: Sharon Nesbit, 665-0423

CHRISTMAS AT THE HARLOW HOUSE
SATURDAY, DEC. 16, 1 TO 4 P.M.

*

Santa sitting by the fireplace with candy for good little girls and boys. Cups of steaming wassail. The scent of fresh greens, the joyous burst of holly. Donna Kluehe's Christmas tree, a festival of birds. Bird ornaments to carry home to your own nest, crafted by Geri Von Ahn. Bring a plate of cookies to share. Take a plate home.



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ALL

*

JOIN US AT THE HARLOW HOUSE...

Our annual Christmas gathering is a chance to feast on cookies and wish each other well on this, our ninth Christmas in the Harlow House.

Decorating will take place on Dec. 13, so if you have greens to donate, please leave them on the front porch by 10 a.m. of that day.

Though we will not have wassail or Santa Claus, the house also is open Dec. 17 through 20, 1 to 4 p.m. for those who want to see the decorations. Because Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve both fall on Sunday, the museum is closed Dec. 24 and 31, our usual museum days.

A NEW VOLUNTEER...

Heidi Wilson just moved to Troutdale, where she and her family live in the former Hewitt-Schatz home, 342 SE Kibling. In addition to being interested in the history of her house, she promptly asked for a volunteer job and is now in charge of the rotating exhibit at the Harlow House. Her first display of Santa Claus figures is already there. If you have an idea for a future exhibit, call her at 667-9900.

LOOKING AHEAD...

Our society will have a display, prepared by Cathy Hamme, as part of the opening of the new Gresham Library. The library, informs us as well, that Shannon Applegate, descendant of the Southern Oregon pioneer family and author of a fine historical book, "Skookum," will be at the library to greet history buffs at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10. Please put it on your calendar.

TO NEXT PAGE

MEET OUR VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH...

This introduces a new feature in our newsletter, a spotlight on the people who make things happen in our society. Because he is handy--right under the editor's nose--the first volunteer to be recognized is Bill Nesbit.

Bill, 58, is a retired insurance agent who has lived on Hungry Hill (Buxton Street) in Troutdale for 23 years. He is the Harlow House mole-trapper and last summer did in 23 moles to keep the yard and grounds free of molehills. (You might remember what it looked like before he began running his trap-line.)

In addition, Bill served 2 1/2 years as chairman of Troutdale Bingo and also works in the cashier's cage as a society volunteer at the Thursday night bingo games in the city park. Bingo brings the society almost \$4,000 a year.

He also is the unofficial quartermaster, the fellow who buys a garbage can on sale, or negotiates the price of grapes, or arranges for 40 loaves of bread when those things are needed.

He fries hamburgers, scoops ice cream and proofreads this newsletter, so any mistakes you find in reading this are all his fault. Thank you to Bill Nesbit, Volunteer of the Month.

MARK ST. PATRICK'S DAY...

Gene Bui, chief trekker of our Troutdale Treks, is planning to lead us to the end of the Oregon Trail in Oregon City on St. Patrick's Day, Saturday, March 17. Among our stops will be the McLoughlin House, the Mertie Stevens House and the city elevator, as well as a possible visit to the Clackamas County Historical Society's new building.

A PIECE OF HARLOW HOUSE HISTORY...

A number of oldtimers have told us of the funeral of little Lucile Harlow in the Harlow House in 1907.

At last we have documentation, thanks to genealogist Stan Clarke, who watches for Troutdale items when he is doing research. From the records of the Portland Crematorium comes a photocopy showing that Lucile Harlow, daughter of Minnie Lucile and Fred Harlow, the builders of the Harlow House, died at age 10 years, 10 months and 6 days, on Sept. 14, 1907 of typhoid fever. Her ashes, we have been told, sat for some years on the upstairs windowsill of the Harlow House.

Fred and Minnie Lucile Harlow and their surviving daughter lived at the Harlow House until about 1915 when the Troutdale bank went broke. Fred was believed to have been responsible for that and, in some circles, is said to have taken the money.

Shortly afterward they left the home and it was eventually purchased by Fred's brother and sister-in-law, Lou and Laura Harlow. The third owners of the home were Lee and Mabel Evans, who bought it in 1940.

All their photos hang in the dining room of the Harlow House in a new display prepared by Dick Jones.

SPEAKING OF FAMILY TREES...

The Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Inc., will publish a Guide to Researching in Oregon and is gathering information for the book. They need to know where historical archives are in the state. If you can help, call Pat Burling, 644-0067 in Portland.

IN MEMORY...Dr. Frank Packard, a retired Portland physician, who lived at Sandy Dell since 1969, died Nov. 14. Dr. Packard, who served three years as chairman of the Troutdale Planning Commission, was a staunch supporter of our historical society. He and his wife Darthea (Dot)

SHOULD COLD WINDS BLOW...

Our policy in regard to meeting and event cancellations: During the winter we will automatically cancel all meetings and events if driving conditions are hazardous.

If you have any questions about whether or not an event will take place, call: Sam Cox, 665-9086; Sharon Nesbit, 665-0423; or Ted Schulte, 668-9620.

HAVE YOU A GREEN THUMB?

Cathy Hamme, who has made our Harlow House grounds a show place in recent years, needs some help this coming spring and summer with the grounds and gardens at the Harlow House. If you would like to adopt a flower bed or take on some other project in the yard, please call her at 667-7760.

NEW EAST MULTNOMAH COUNTY HISTORY...

We wish we had a nickel for every time someone calls up 20 years too late and asks to buy a copy of a locally published history. Unfortunately, local histories are published on tight budgets and the people who print them can't afford to have thousands of copies sitting around for years. If you want a copy of the David Douglas Historical Society's new book, "The History and Folklore of the David Douglas Community," get in touch now. Write Grace Horner, David Douglas Historical Society, 1500 S.E. 130th Ave., Portland, Ore. 97233.

GOOD NEWS FOR EDGEFIELD...

The State Historic Preservation Committee has recommended that Edgefield Manor be named to the National Register of Historic Places. Its nomination to the Register is almost a certainty, as the federal authorities rarely turn down Oregon's nominations. While this status will not prevent the demolition of Edgefield (other National Register Sites have been torn down), it will certainly enhance Edgefield's chances for preservation.

TROUTDALE'S FIRST RECORDED CHRISTMAS...

The Christmas of 1855 is remembered in the memoirs of Geo. E. Cole, because he almost died in Troutdale. In a 1905 book, "Early Oregon 1850 to 1860," Cole wrote how he traveled up the Columbia River to save his cattle from hostile Indians at The Dalles. Cole then set off down the south bank of the Columbia, staying first with Colonel Ruckle and then somewhere in the area of Dodson or Warrendale.

"The next morning I started out to make the Sandy River, and to cross it, as there was no house on the east side of the river, which was occupied." Unfortunately, Cole struck the Sandy in the wrong place, got into swift water and found he could not ford. He "sang out lustily" and a man came running, got into a canoe on the opposite bank, and poled "great haste to me, while I lost no time in donning my outside apparel, although it was all soaking with cold water. The wind was blowing a gale down stream, and much thin ice, just forming, covered the water. I jumped into the canoe, but upon reaching the other shore I was so stiff with the cold that I was able to get out of the canoe only with the assistance of my rescuer."

Cole's rescuer was David Buxton who took the traveler in, warmed him up with a good hot fire and a drink containing cayenne pepper. Cole stayed overnight with the Buxtons in their little cabin and the next day, Cole being nearly paralyzed, Buxton saw to it that his guest was taken to Portland in an ox cart. The trip took all day and Cole

BUILDING A BARN...

Robert Strebin gave a \$500 donation to the barn this month so that his parents names, Robert and Vera Strebin, will be burned on the barn beam. At the same time came a check from Vera Strebin for the barn fund. Vera recently attended the wedding of a niece. The invitation requested, instead of gifts, that a donation be made to a favorite charity. So Vera sent the price of a wedding gift to the barn fund. Nice ideas from both of the Strebins.

Dick Jones, who devotes so many hours to the barn, also donated \$367.88 in materials that he paid for in the course of his work.

INDIAN JOHN'S FRYING PAN...

From Arlene Marble comes a note explaining how the Oregon Historical Society came into possession of a skillet that was once owned by explorers Lewis and Clark. Arlene's grandmother was Mollie Benson who lived in the Wilkes area and was a descendant of William Wilkes. Mollie Benson knew Indian John, also called Chief John, who was believed to be one of the last of the Multnomah Indians. John gave Mrs. Benson the skillet, saying that his father knew Lewis and Clark and received the skillet as a gift from them. Mrs. Benson, in turn, gave it to the Oregon Historical Society.

WELCOME

Greetings to new member LORRAINE MACKEY.

Have you considered giving a 1990 membership to the society to someone you know. Send name and address and a check for \$4 a person to Joyce Stoeckel, Membership Secretary, Troutdale Historical Society, 104 S.E. Kibling, Troutdale, Ore. 96060

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

BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
TROUTDALE, OR
PERMIT NO. 5



FIND CHRISTMAS AT THE HARLOW HOUSE
DEC. 16 TO 20, 1 TO 4 P.M.