



Bygone Times

Newsletter of the

Troutdale Historical Society

October 2010

Mark Your Calendars!

**October 16
Barn Museum
2-4 p.m.**

Troutdale-Fairview
Elementary School
Reunion
Bring old photos and
stories to share!

**November 21
Program Meeting
Troutdale City Hall
2-4 p.m.**

Tom Cowling talks about
“**Ghost Logging Towns
on Bridal Veil Creek.**”

**December 4
Holiday Open House
at Harlow House with
Santa Claus
11-4**

Tom Cowling to talk about “Ghost Logging Towns on Bridal Veil Creek” at November 21 Program Meeting

Picture of Palmer, showing mill and town, that was taken sometime before the fire of 1902. The town of Palmer will be the subject of November presentation. It was the first of three to become a Ghost Town on Bridale Veil Creek.

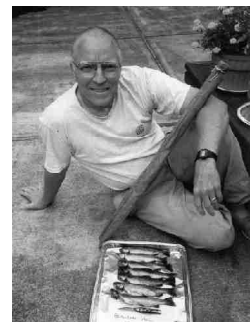


Tom Cowling grew up in Bridal Veil and will talk at the November Program Meeting about when it was still a thriving lumber town. He fished Bridal Veil Creek, enjoyed gorge winters, swam in the Columbia River, rode the school bus to Corbett on the Historic Columbia River Highway and worked in the mill some summers. His family left town in 1960 when the mill was sold at auction.

Bridal Veil now consists of a post office, a church and a cemetery, but Tom recalls when it was a thriving town.

Cowling’s talk to THS will also include the communities of Palmer and New Palmer, which were farther up and handled the logs that fed the Bridal Veil mill.

Only a few rusty artifacts can be found at the Palmer town sites, but they,



Tom Cowling

too, were once bustling communities with schools and post offices.

Multnomah County Commissioners voted to put an Oregon History Museum levy on the November ballot. It could bring a much needed \$150,000 to East County Museums.

Please read article by Dave Ripma on pages 2-3 &4

2 The Director's Chair

by Terry Huston

I did forget someone last month. A HUGE thank you to **Dave & Jill (Fujji) Reilly at Grocery Outlet in Gresham**. They donated the wine for the Salmon Bake. Without business sponsors

and supporters like them, we could not exist...thanks, guys!

Thanks to Greg & Sue Handy and Jean Holman for manning the Depot for First Friday this month. This will

be that last First Friday for THS until March or April.

I know the article about the *Vote for Oregon History* article is long, but please read it. It will not only save The Oregon Historical So-

ciety, but also divide approximately **\$150,000** with all museums in East County.

Please mail in your ballots on this one, it is so important! Happy Halloween!!!
Terry

Vote Oregon History - YES

First, I should tell you that without our help and this levy, the Oregon Historical Society will close its facilities – and most of the access the public now has – sometime next year.

And, the reason I'm involved is my long involvement in the Troutdale Historical Society, where I live. I have been on the board there for 20 years and served as President of the Troutdale Historical Society for 10 years. I know how vital the Oregon HS is to preservation, education, and tourism everywhere in Multnomah County. Like so many other historical societies, the charter of the Troutdale Historical Society specifies that, if we are forced to close, our collections and artifacts are to be given to the Oregon Historical Society. We are so dependent on OHS for assistance and expertise. If OHS closes, the entire history, archives, and physical memory of the region and state will be in danger of being lost.

I'll take just a few minutes to talk about the Oregon Historical Society: it's importance to our community, the challenges it faces,

and what the measure this November will do to protect OHS, help our community and benefit you!

The Oregon Historical Society is an important part of our community.

The Historical Society, established in 1898, is an integral part of our community, preserving and interpreting Oregon's past in ways that Oregonians, students, researchers and writers can use in a hands-on way. What do we do?

The Oregon Historical Society Museum serves visitors in experiencing our permanent and traveling exhibits of Oregon History. It offers a place for students, writers and researchers of Oregon's history to study and learn about Oregon's history. For example, *Oregon My Oregon*, one of four exhibits currently on display, tells the story of Oregon settlement, of native cultures and of the growth of Oregon's industries and institutions. Later this year, we will open an exhibit on African American murals, as well as well as one celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps, created with

the help of over 86 returning Oregon Peace Corps volunteers. We are the only place in the Metro area that is equipped to display traveling historical exhibits.

The Museum welcomes over 40,000 visitors every year, which includes nearly 8,000 schoolchildren. School attendance is rising by more than 20% per year, as more teachers decide their students will benefit from seeing Oregon's history.

The **Oregon Historical Society** publishes the **Oregon Historical Quarterly**, a widely read and respected journal about Oregon history with a 110-year history of publication getting the word out about Oregon's history, new discoveries and new interpretations of our unique heritage.

The **Oregon Historical Society Research Library** has the largest collection on Oregon history in the world.

Our history library has: 25,000 maps, 30,000 books, 8.5 million feet of film and videotape, 16,000 rolls of microfilm, and 12,000 linear feet of documents. We have nearly 3 million photographs that detail

Oregon's history. There is **nothing like it** in the region or state.

Thousands of researchers from here and from national and international academic institutions rely upon the Library for its essential resources. But it's not just professional academics using it – everybody can, and does. Your children can use it to help with their homework, as hundreds do every year. And you can use the Library to learn more about your family, your career, your neighborhood and even your own house! Recently, a person came in and found the original plans for his old house, and period photographs of it. It's an invaluable resource for us all.

If you ever want to look up the history of your house, or neighborhood, you can go the Research Library and find photos, maps, books, and newspaper articles that will be your absolutely best source for the information, if it exists anywhere.

The **Oregon Historical Society Museum Collections** include over 85,000 unique artifacts, including ancient items, memorabilia from Oregon's settlements, political and cultural items, and items that illustrate the growth of busi-

ness and industry, the development of artwork and crafts, maritime history, and many other topics.

Examples include:

The penny flipped by Misters Lovejoy and Pettygrove to determine the name of the city: Portland or Boston

The rifle carried (and carved) by Joe Meek, the mountain man

Items carried on the Lewis and Clark expedition: Lewis's branding iron and pocket sewing kit
Beadwork and basketry from all of the NW American tribes and nations.

As if this wasn't enough, the Oregon Historical Society does so much

• • •

OHS co-produces with OPB the popular Oregon Experience program

OHS is one of the largest tourist destinations in our state and attracts a lot of out of town visitors who spend money here.

OHS hosts public events, such as Family Days, History Pubs and special film screenings.

OHS has a store, which makes available tremendous resources in Oregon history, including toys, books, clothing, jewelry and art.

OHS supports the efforts of local productions, such as the Oregon Experience, and background for movies, with resources found nowhere else.

OHS provides support and technical assistance to over 100 small heritage or-

ganizations throughout the state in how they can continue to collect and preserve pieces of the state's history.

OHS resources can also be found everywhere from the Oregon state Capitol building to Trader Joe's, educating the public any way we can about our state's vital and unique history.

Our Challenge

Today, all of this is threatened. Without additional funds, OHS will have to close the museum. The library may be able to be open limited hours, but probably in a different facility.

What are our challenges?

For nearly 100 years, the state budget provided significant support for OHS, playing a major role in its health and survival. Recently, however, the state has not come through with much money, and a few years it came through with none.

OHS has cut its budget by 1/3, some of its staff by 1/2 and has spent reserves to keep the doors open up until now. These cuts have meant dramatically-decreased library hours to just 12 hours a week. No curators are on staff now, collecting new historical artifacts, and rotating new exhibits. Our events, exhibits, public programs and other aspects of our work have also been severely cut back.

OHS is now receiving so little state financial support that we now rank dead

last in the nation among state history museums. And this coming year looks the same – little to no support from the state of Oregon.

Despite the cuts in OHS's budget, we have never been more in demand. Our attendance has increased as more researchers have used our library and archival materials and more children have learned from our exhibits.

The message is clear – If we want to have access to Oregon's unique history, and to continue to build our collection to pass onto future generations, then OHS is a necessary and vital part of our community and state.

That's why Multnomah County has agreed to place a 5-year local option levy on the ballot this November – to provide temporary support to keep the Oregon

History Museum and Library open to the public, until the state steps in again.

If this measure passes, we can continue, and restore basic services to our community.

What would this measure do?

The measure would allow the Oregon Historical Society to survive by:

1) Keeping the history museum open to the public for 40 hours a week;

2) Provide free admission to all Multnomah County residents and to all schoolchildren on field trips;

3) Restore the history library hours to 32 hours a week;

4) Support curator care of materials – so that we can continue to collect Oregon history, maintain the fragile materials, and rotate exhibits so that the public can see more of it; and

5) Reinstating special events and expanding and programs for visitors, including speaker series, workshops, Free Day activities for families, and exhibit-related activities which have been reduced or eliminated entirely.

What does it cost?/What do we gain?

East County Museums (including the three that THS maintains) would get about \$150,00 to be divided among them.

Multnomah County residents would pay 5 cents per \$1,000 assessed property value a year for five years. And all would be offered free admission at any time.

The average taxpayer would pay \$10 per year. Considering that admission for adults is currently \$11, many people would actually save money!

At less than \$1 per month for the average taxpayer, it is worth it to keep Oregon's history accessible to school children and those who study Oregon's history.

The measure would also create an independent citizen committee to oversee the expenditure of funds, including performing of regular public audits. The citizens committee would

continued on page 4

reflect Multnomah County's diverse cultures.

It is probably no surprise that I am a very strong supporter of the Oregon Historical Society. At a time when schools are cutting back on libraries, and even on the study of social studies, The Oregon Historical Society represents Oregon's ability to record and preserve our diverse, collective past and prepare for our common future.

With the other two large

historical museums in Oregon already closed (Willamette Falls museum in Oregon City, and Southern Oregon Historical Society), our Oregon Historical Society is the central repository for our region's and state's collection of historical documents, photos, books, and artifacts. OHS serves thousands of residents each year, including researchers, school children and the public at large.

More than that, OHS is our ability to continue to

learn about Oregon, what makes Oregon unique, and to preserve that heritage for future generations. History is who we are as a people, and the materials we have collected about our shared history are permanently cared for and stored – at the Oregon Historical Society.

We know that it is really the job of the state to support OHS. But they haven't come through in several years, and the savings account is nearly empty at OHS. Right now, we can

either step forward here locally and help them through with a levy of \$10 a year, or OHS must close its doors. It's that simple.

I hope you will take some time to think about what an asset the Oregon Historical Society is to our residents, our families, children, senior citizens, and our community.

Please join me in voting YES for history on November 2.

**Dave Ripma,
THS Board Member**

Floyd B Splawn

Floyd B. Splawn died Sunday, Sept. 5, in Vancouver, Wash. at the age of 96.

A regular at Troutdale smelt runs, Floyd donated his smelt fishing boat to the Troutdale Historical Society and it was used in our first smelt exhibit in the barn. He operated Floyd's Fine Foods, a traveling conces-

sion that made a name for itself at the smelt run and at the Gresham fair. The fried onions from that booth were one of the famous scents of the fair.

He was born June 27, 1914, in Tishomingo, Okla., to Stephen and Willie (Rushing) Splawn. The family moved to Seaside when Floyd was young, and then to Gresham around 1930. Floyd graduated from Gresham High School and

served in the Army during World War II.

He worked as a truck driver for Gresham Transfer, retiring in 1979. In January 1980, he married Josie Grace Osborn in Las Vegas.

Floyd resided in Gresham for more than 50 years. He moved to Sandy in 1981.

He was preceded in death by his wife in October 2009; by his step-grand-

son, Nick Frazier; by his brother, Raymond Splawn; and by his sisters, Mary Lola Splawn, Edna Thompson and Ruth Jones.

Survivors include his sons, Wayne Splawn of Camas, Wash., and Noel Splawn of Vancouver; sister, Margaret Splawn of Gresham; brother, Steve Splawn Jr. of Show Low, Ariz.; stepson, Gary Frazier of Welches; and six grandchildren.

Nadine Jordan

Nadine Jordan, 88, Albany, died July 31 at her home in Albany.

She was the daughter of Salina Fox and Melvin E. Short. Her mother, Salina,

was the daughter of Aaron Fox, early day Troutdale storekeeper and the first mayor of Troutdale. Nadine treasured her Troutdale roots and kept in touch with the Troutdale Historical Society as long as she was able.

She was a clerical worker for the Linn Benton Community College when it was newly formed. She had four daughters, the children of Earl Jordan of Corvallis, whom she married in 1969. Her sons preceded her in death.

One of Nadine's contributions to the historical society was sharing her recipe for orange tea bread which was a feature of the Troutdale Historical Society teas.

Info for both obituaries from the Gresham Outlook

We are still selling raffle tickets for the handmade quilt made and donated by Mary Bryson!

The tickets are \$2 each, 3 for \$5, 7 for \$10 or 15 for \$20.

Mail a check to THS 104 SE Kibling St. Troutdale, OR 97060 or call the office at 503-661-2164 to put them on your debit or credit card. Tickets will continue to be available at the Depot Museum Store until the drawing on December 4 at Christmas Open House at Harlow House from 11-4.

Len Otto
 503-663-0794
 Len@IHonorYourPast.com

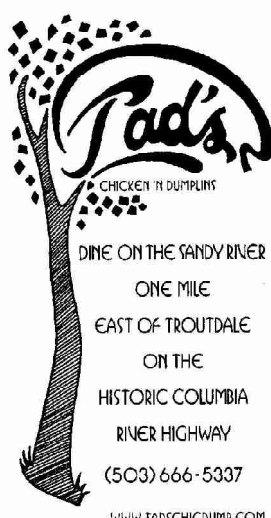
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Thanks from THS for your Support



Troutdale Historical Society
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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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Troutdale, OR

Permit No. 5

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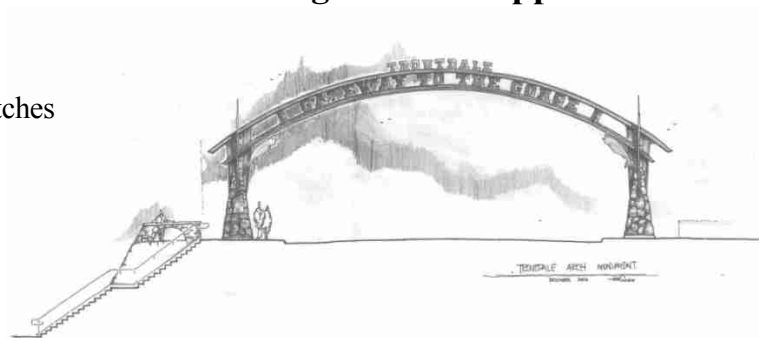
In Memory of Arthur & Marjorie Matches

Endowment:

In Memory of Floyd Splawn

Jessie V. Harris

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



Centennial Monument Is Up!!! The permanent plaque should be in place in a few weeks.

We need help with the Newsletter. If anyone wants to write stories or take pictures at THS events, please call the office at 503-661-2164. Leave a message if no one answers!
