

# BYGONE TIMES

A Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

January, 1998

Sharon Nesbit, Editor, 665-0423

## Pioneer travail: The Sager family, Jan. 18

On Sunday, Jan. 18, 2 p.m., in Troutdale City Hall, the speaker for our January meeting is Lynn Renner of Vancouver, descendant of the Sager family, orphans whose parents died on the Oregon Trail, describes one of the most dramatic stories of the pioneer route.

After the death of their parents, the seven Sager orphans, one an infant, completed passage of the Oregon Trail and were placed in the care of Marcus and Narcissa Whitman at their mission near the present Walla Walla, Wash. A year later two of the Sager boys died in the Cayuse Indian attack that killed the Whitmans. Alice Wand is in charge.

**If weather conditions make driving hazardous meetings are automatically canceled.**



## Change of schedule brings airport history February 15

Look forward to a history of the Troutdale airport, researched and prepared by Maude Winning, at our Feb. 15 general meeting a 2 p.m. in Troutdale City Hall.

To accommodate members providing transportation, we moved the interview of Garthe Brown, who grew up on the Hicklin farm in Troutdale, from February to our April 20 meeting.



For the February event, Maude Winning interviewed Bob Sturges and has been gathering other information on the history of the Troutdale Airport. We have, in addition, a piece written by Walt Nasmyth who, among other fascinating memories, recalls that Stan Harris flew his Taylor Cub under the railroad bridge in the 1930s. Don't miss this program, a work in progress. If you speak flying, please be sure to attend. We will be taping the recollections of all present for our oral history collection.

### Worried about your dues?

If you keep thinking it's time to pay your dues, it will be in February. You will receive an envelope and instructions in your February newsletter.

## CALENDAR for a New Year



### Meetings

**Sunday, Jan. 18, 2 p.m.**

The Sager Family story from Lynn Renner, Troutdale City Hall

**Sunday, Feb. 15, 2 p.m.**

Thirtieth Anniversary meeting and a history of the Troutdale airport, Troutdale City Hall.

**Sunday, March 15, 2 p.m.**

Geology of Troutdale and the Gorge, Troutdale City Hall

**Sunday, April 20, 2 p.m.**

An interview with Garthe Brown, Troutdale City Hall.

**Sunday, May 18, 2 p.m.**

Memory of the Doolittle Store, opening with reception at store site, Oregon Country Quilt and Fabric, then to Troutdale City Hall.

### Board of Directors

**Wednesday, Jan. 7, 7 p.m.**

and

**Wednesday, Feb. 4, 7 p.m.**

In the bam. All members welcome.

### Coming Events

**Saturday, May 2, Tea & Tour, Yoshida Home**

**Tentative date: April 25 & 26, Spring Trek**

**Troutdale Ice Cream Social, June 6 & 7**

### Harlow House

**Saturdays and Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m.**

**Depot Museum & Store**

**Closed for the winter.**

## How to get in touch:

**Harlow House telephone:** (503) 661-2164, leave a message.

**Got a letter or picture to leave?** If no one is at the Harlow House, leave in our box at Troutdale City Hall during business hours.

**E-mail:** troutdale\_historical\_society@juno.com



## Deck the halls crew comes through one for another holiday

We fetched up with so many good volunteers to decorate the Harlow House this holiday season that the only real danger was being stampeded in the rush.

The trim crew this year was headed up by **Frieda Ryland**, assisted by **Jean Hybskmann** and backed by **Christina Balsiger** working on the Nutcracker exhibit.

A boondoggle delayed our Christmas tree, but **Bob Skipper** of Orient not only delivered one in the nick, but refused payment for it. **Mike Hamme** and **Lynn Simonson** came through with the promised tree, which was given a nice home.

Decking the halls, kitchen, walls, hearth, etc. were **Jean Holman**, **Mona Mitchoff**, **Sharon Nesbit**, **Florence Baker**, **Alice Wand**, **Bob Strebin**, **Mary Bryson**, **Mario Ayala**, **Joanie Lilja**, and **Jill Grimes**. Assisting in various ways: **Sam Cox**, **Marge Schmunck**, **Deb Cook**, **Kay Struckman** and **Adrienne Clausen** who brought wonderful vegetable soup. Coming for lunch and general levity was **Ellen Brothers**.

**Dave Kauth's** Scout Troop gave us a wreath, bless their hearts, as did **Joan Lilja**.

We

can't forget the sacrifice on opening day of **Jim Gurtison** whose car door blew open and broke while he was delivering equipment we need to use in the barn.

Our splendid Santas were **Ted Schulte** and **Bob Mitchoff**. The Troutdale Lions -- **Sam and Nancy Cox** doing the packaging -- provided candy. Our pine cone angel ornaments are still for sale in the Harlow House and will be available at our January meeting.



Meet Lavinia Matheny, Jason Rapp, Cody Davidson and Joshua Harris, students from the Springdale Job Corps Training Center who completed two difficult jobs in December at the Harlow House.

## The bottom line: Harvest Faire

Deb Cook gathered income and outgo from Harvest Faire and put it in spread sheet form, a satisfying display because it makes us all feel good to see that our efforts yielded a profit of \$4,333.26.

Thanks to sponsors of music and events at the Harlow House -- Reynolds Metals, Walsh & Sons and Handy Bros.-- we even made a bit on music after expenses for a total of \$163.62.

Our raffle tickets through Ali Peret at Historic Columbia River Jewelers yielded \$275 and produced two winners, as well.

Vendor booths made a profit of \$415. Sales and plants and other items in our historical society booth resulted in \$96 in profit. We received donations of \$95. Sadie Riley's kitchen produced \$352.46 and Janet Vandiver's ham dinner earned \$939.24. We collected \$973.73 at the gate in outright "Buck for Barn" gifts and made \$775.65 on pies.

Many thanks to chairwoman Mona Mitchoff for leading this effort and our ice cream social.

## News of our members:

**Homer Townsend**, Goldendale, Wash., is a former Troutdale boy who compiled Marriage Records of Klickitat County, Washington, 1867 to 1917. Copies are available for \$23.95. He donated a copy to our library. If you want to use it for research, call Deb Cook 661-2164.

### Membership Roster

We need to produce another membership roster. **Barbara Welsh** is among the most recent to ask for one. Because we're on a tight budget right now, it is hard to come up with \$500 to print a roster. One idea is to have business card ads for \$25 each. **Richard Weill**, Troutdale attorney, has responded. If you would like to participate send your card and we will bill you at the time of publication.

### Welcome New Members

A warm welcome to **Jill Grimes** and **Joan Lilja**, whom **Helen Tamura** sent to help us trim the Harlow House.

### Remember Ellen

Former director **Ellen Brothers** was diagnosed with breast cancer in November and is undergoing chemo at this writing. Her address is: 46125 E. Hist. Columbia River Hwy., Bridal Veil, 97019.





## Scraping for THS



Troutdale Historical Society gained about \$190 (we forget the exact amount) at Dec. 12 Oregon Lottery event called Scratch Off for Charity. Two-person teams had five minutes to scratch as many lottery tickets as possible for their charity.

Also there were our friends from Friends of Vista House who earned about the same amount. Show in photo from left is Sue Davis, Friends of Vista House, then THS volunteers Eric Vaughn and Melita Johanningmeier.

### Donations

#### To the barn

In memory  
of

**Dick Jones**

Nicholas & Barbara Welsh

In memory  
of

**Vera Strebin**

Don McGinnis, Mary Bryson

and Bill McGinnis

#### To the

#### General Fund

Dennis & Frieda Ryland

### In memory..

Merle M. Coons, a longtime member of our society, died Dec. 16 in Pocatello, Idaho, at the age of 76.

A retired Air Force Colonel, he was born in 1921 in Arlington, growing up in Troutdale and Gresham. He retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1968 after a 26-year career that including 67 combat missions over Europe during World War II. He received the title "Fighter Ace" by destroying five German fighter planes in combat. His military awards included the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal plus nine oak-leaf clusters and a Presidential Unit Citation.

He is survived by his wife, Lois, three daughters and eight grandchildren.

He was in Troutdale for the 1996 Troutdale School Reunion. Most recently he sent a photo in uniform for our collection of military portraits. His father, Milo (Mike) Coons, is quoted in our upcoming smelt exhibit in the barn. Mike enjoyed telling how his son buzzed his house when he was flying in the area.

Correspondence may be sent to: 2088 Satterfield Drive, Pocatello, ID 83210-1992.

## A gathering of our charter members

Next month marks the 30th anniversary of the Troutdale Historical Society. Our 63 charter members, all enrolled by March of 1968, are listed in a framed certificate at the Harlow House.

Still living are **Edna Alexander, Beryl Cook, Nancy and Sam Cox, Sue Davis, Louise and Robert Dix, Mary Hughes, Barbara and Don Lampert, Joe Lucas, Roy Meger, Sharon Nesbit, Helen Otto, Margaret Parsons, Marty and Vernon Rathman, Art and Emily Scofield, Frank and Irene Simons, Al Stoeckel, Margaret Stoeckel, Kay Struckman, Bob and Dorothy Sturges, Laura Vorpahl and Truly Wright.**

We hope as many charter members as possible can be present at our Feb. 15 general meeting. We want to take a picture and applaud them for their splendid foresight.

Watch next month's newsletter for a time line of Troutdale Historical Society great moments of the last 30 years.

Our deceased charter members are: **Emil and Georgia Mae Carow, Ada Cox, Clara Cox, Rankin Davis, Luella Dix, Teresa Doolittle, Mary Ray Eaton, Jack Evans, Mabel Evans, Arthur Heimstra, Justa Hewitt, Robert Hughes, Laura Imthurn, Charles Jackson, Mary and Richard Knarr, Evelyn Lampert, Nora and William Lewis, Dorothy Lucas, Arthur and Marjorie Matches, Miriam McGinnis, Ray Moore, Marilyn Oakes, Glenn Otto, Dale Parsons, Olive Parsons, Ethel Peterson, Marlin Pope, George and Louise Schatz, Don Vorpahl and Ig Wand.** (In case you wonder about Alice Wand, she failed to enroll as a charter member. She has been making up for it ever since with gifts of time and talent.)

For the record, Sam Cox and Bob Sturges are our only surviving past presidents.

### Want on Tea & Tour list?

Invitations will go out in early April for our May 2 tea and tour at the home of Junki and Linda Yoshida, the former Portland Automobile Club. If you want first priority at an invitation, telephone the Harlow House, 661-2164.

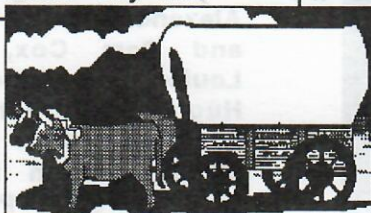


Troutdale Historical  
Society  
104 S.E. Kibling Street  
Troutdale, OR 97060

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

Time Dated Material

A story of the Oregon Trail,  
Sunday, Jan. 18, 2 p.m.  
Troutdale City Hall



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### **Ayala accepts post**

Mario Ayala has agreed to take a spot on our barnstorm committee where his organizational skills will come in handy as we begin work on gathering images and illustrations for our time line.

We have a \$300 grant from PGE to pay part of the cost of photos, and we are asking the Samuel Johnson Foundation for \$5,000 to do design work. Sharon Nesbit and Deb Cook put the grant together over the Christmas holidays.

### **Angel saves Harlow House**

Mary Bryson says her angel saved the Harlow House, Dec. 7.

We commandeered an angel from Mary for our Harlow House tree. The day after our opening reception, a volunteer turned on the wrong unit of the stove to heat some wassail and melted down some plastic item that was left on the stove.

The angel worked overtime. As the host was occupied with guests, Deb Cook stopped to pick up a paper, saw the smoke and summoned the fire department.

A chemical extinguisher ended the problem. Smoke is confined to the back porch. We are grateful beyond words.

### **Scott slighted**

We left Scott Cunningham's name off the list of those who formed our Berry Grower's panel at our November meeting. Our apologies, because Scott's role, first as a farmer and later in the frozen food industry, was an important link in the knowledge we gained that day.

That program was videotaped by professional videographer Cathy Seitz. You may order a \$15 copy from her by telephoning 760-0494.

### **What's new? exhibit ready**

We get new old stuff all the time to add to our artifact collection. Christina Balsiger and Mary Bryson have prepared a Harlow House exhibit of new items added to our collection.

### **Blessed with volunteers**

Pam George (she and her husband Frank own the old Emil Oleson home on Troutdale Road and are turning it into Cedar Place, a bed and breakfast) has offered to keep our scrapbook up to date -- an important task at our 30th anniversary.

If you have souvenir items, brochures from Treks, photos or other things, give them to Deb Cook.

### **Job Corps comes to the rescue on really dirty job**

Bob Strebin, whose chief job is to finish the barn, decided, while he was at it, to ask carpenter Mike Yost about a wiggly spot under the window at Harlow House.

He found a need to bolster a beam there, but building inspectors said we should first take a bunch of sand out from under the east end of the house because it was too close to the beams.

Bob contacted the apartment and building management wing of the Springdale Job Corps training center. Sledges were fashioned out of plastic storage containers and four young people (pictured on Page 2) spent most of two days burrowing under the house to drag out excess dirt. While they were on the property, they also installed insulation in the attic of the barn, another wearisome and worrisome task that needed doing.

And Mike Alderson, a city employee who often volunteers after hours for us, is helping to frame in our shop storage area. Val Lantz, who administers the parks divisions, says she will give after-hours volunteer time to supervising work on the Harlow House.

Thank you, all.