Harvest Faire welcomes autumn on Sept. 16 & 17

With the fading days of summer, our steering committee led by Marie Miller looks ahead, busy planning another fun-filled annual Harvest Faire on September 16 & 17. Be sure and mark your calendars!

Once again the festival takes place at Glenn Otto Park along the Sandy River, with event hours 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.

Big News for Dumpling Fans

This year we welcome back the crowd-pleasing favorite, Tad's Chicken n' Dumplings! Along with their signature dish, we offer festival goers Sadie Riley's chili, hot dogs, polish sausages, and of course, those wonderful homemade pies, made by the Society's talented bakers!

Art and craft vendors will offer their specialty products throughout the park. Musical entertainment, including the Dover Weingard Quartet, Corbett Childrens Theatre, and more, are planned on the stages. Special autumn-time demonstrations are planned, and lots of children's activities are in the works, including a pumpkin coloring contest.

Harvest Faire would not happen without the support of our members and sponsors. This year we thank Reynolds Metals Company and Waste Management of Oregon who continued their support of the Society's events beyond the Ice Cream Social!

The steering committee members, those hardworking folks that see to all the details for such an event, are Jean Holman, Adrienne Clauson, Florence Baker, Dorothy Sturges, Frieda Ryland, Cindy Hammond, Mona Mitchoff, and Marge Schmunk.

How Can I Help?

We are looking for many more willing volunteers who can help during some part of the Harvest Faire. If you are called, please consider doing so. If you haven't been called, don't be bashful! Call the Adrienne at 663-0895 and volunteer! Together we can make a memorable event to be proud of!

Put up the flyer in this newsletter and tell your family and friends about this year's Harvest Faire, September 16 & 17. It offers something for everyone, and shouldn't be missed! See you all at the Faire!

Executive Director, Troutdale Historical Society
Private, non-profit historical society preserving the history of Troutdale, Oregon, and vicinity, and operating three museums, located 15 miles east of Portland, Oregon is seeking an Executive Director for all aspects of management: museum operations, school programs, budget and finance, physical property maintenance, volunteer management and special events coordination. Must have excellent interpersonal and community relations skills. Demonstrated success in all aspects of fund development, in managing staff and volunteers, and in grant writing. Requires the ability to communicate clearly, both orally and in writing. Experience with a history museum or site is an asset. Salary range: $26,000 to $31,000 DOE. Send resume, references and writing sample to: President, Troutdale Historical Society, 104 S.E. Kibling St., Troutdale, OR 97060.
Namedroppers

We were contacted recently by Nadine Jordan, a descendant of Troutdale’s first mayor, Aaron Fox. Jordan, an Albany resident, saw Sharon Nesbit’s appearance on Channel 8 news and called about information we might have about her family. We sent off a big packet of information, and she promises some in return...Lois Schulte is recovering in a care center in the old hospital in Gresham as the result of a fall and a stroke that occurred in March. She hopes to go home soon. Claire Stone Balsho died recently in Portland at the age of 92. A former Parkrose resident and a longtime student of the Oregon Trail, she was among the first to recognize that the railroad behind the Harlow House heading up the canyon, now called Robins Way, was likely used by Oregon Trail immigrants. Historian Sharon Nesbit was named Troutdale Citizen of the Year in July. She rode in the July 15 Summerfest parade along with Mary Bryson, our member of the year. We also were represented by President David Ripma on his John Deere tractor pulling a hay wagon full of hayseeds. Thanks to Mona Mitchoff for sign work and driving...You’ve heard of people folding their tents and stealing away? Bob & Maude Winning are our historical society opposites. They unfold their tent and steal away. When rain threatened the pancake breakfast in Mayor Square July 22, they obliged by bringing our canopy and putting it up for the cooks. They do the same for us every ice cream social and Harvest Fair...Our faithful volunteer in the Harlow House, Mary Hughes, was featured in the Aug. 10 Oregonian. Mary has been a Harlow House host for many years and does especially well engaging children in the process. She likes to explain how housewives used to put their hand in an oven to guess the temperature...Speaking of volunteers, our thanks to museum volunteers for the month of July, Adrienne Clausen, Bill Payne, Crystal Bayley, Donna McCollister, Jan Vandiver, Jean & Jerry Hybemann, Jim Cook, Marge Schmunk, Mario Ayala, Pat Smith, Sharon Nesbit...Welcome to new member, Marilyn Byrds, a gift membership from Lole Moller... Earlier this summer David Ripma & Sharon Nesbit hosted a tour of master’s degree history scholars through our museums and Troutdale.

Gifts to Troutdale Historical Society

In memory of Edna Alexander
Nancy Cox, Sue Davis & family, Bob & Louise Dix

In memory of Don McGinnis
Jean Hanks, Nancy Cox

In memory of Dick Retwisch
Mike & Karen Consbruck

In memory:
Flossie Ferch
Flossie Ferch died Aug. 4 at the age of 83. She and her husband, Walter, came to this area living in Fairview Homes during World War II. She was a devoted Troutdale Trekkers by a stroke some years ago. She stayed in touch with us through the newsletter.

Save Oct. 7 for trek
Details are not yet complete but we are planning a one-day fall trek to Washington County on Saturday, Oct. 7. We will do a pleasant meander through the fall leaves and the Coast foothills to the new Rice Mineral Museum, the Scotch Church where the family of Mountain Man Joe Meek is buried, lunch at McMenamins Grand Lodge and the wine country, likely ending up at McMenamins Hotel Oregon for a drink and a snack before heading home.

If you want to be part of it, please notify our office 661-2164 and we will be in touch with price and other information.

Helen Tamura remembered

Helen, putting the squeeze on a granddaughter at Harvest Faire

A memorial service was held Saturday, Aug. 5 for Helen Tamura, 78, who died as the result of a brain tumor. President David Ripma spoke in behalf of our historical society.

Helen and Kaz joined us in May on our trek to Baker City. The two, owners of Tamura farms, were faithful donors to our ice cream social plant sale, a gift that over the years amounted to many thousands of dollars for our historical society. Her humor and their good company has been a constant in our organization for many years.

The family suggests memorials to Troutdale Historical Society or Epworth United Methodist Church.

From the Gresham Outlook, Oct. 26, 1944
Plan Dedication Dinner on Nov. 25
TROUTDALE RURAL FIRE COMPANY ORGANIZES

TROUTDALE, ORE., Oct. 26 -- Officers and members of the Troutdale Rural Fire Company set Wednesday evening, Nov. 15, as the date for the dedication dinner...At a recent election, James Spence was named fire chief and Webb McGinnis was named captain of the company.

Committee members who met Tuesday and arranged the menu are John McGinnis, Webb McGinnis, Erick Enquist, Homer Clemans, Charles Ellis, James Spence, W.C. Spence and Art Matches.
Curator's Notes

Letters from Newt, a peek into daily life

August 14, 1916

Well, how are you and all the rest of the folks standing the hot weather? It has been pretty hot here the last few days for about four hours during the day, but every night (it's) sure cool, last night I had to dig up that big comfort and crawl under it to keep warm.

I am just now looking at the flowers out of the Den window, they are a solid mass of bloom, and the sweet peas and them other things are loaded too, I told the blacksmith to tell his wife to come over and pick them but don't think the damn ass told her as I can't miss any at all, maybe she is afraid of me.

Imagine what it must have been like having the quiet of a rural community broken by the noise of the new "machines." The historical society really benefits from the donations of personal letters, manuscripts, autograph books, or other personal writings. Things that appear to most to be just ordinary notes, give us invaluable looks at times long past.

by Mary Bryson

Librarian needed for historic photos

Like old photos? Want to help others learn from them?

Beverly Welker has retired as librarian of our historical society photo collection, which numbers a little more than a thousand photos, with others waiting to be identified, labeled and added to our collection.

Because Beverly has done all the start-up work, created a system, and filed our original collection, this job is one that calls for regular upkeep but offers hours and schedules at your own pace. Typing and some modest computer skills are good because the photos are cataloged on a computer. Beverly has even provided us with the computer to do the job, and she will train her successor.

One of the pleasures of the system is its ability to track down photos by name or subject. And the real joy of being able to provide a print for people who have never before seen granddad or an old home or the family business. If you are interested in volunteering for such a job, please call Sharon Nesbit, 665-0423.

Can you bake a cherry pie, Billy boy?

We can always use more pie bakers for our Harvest Faire homemade pie sale, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 16 and 17. If you can help out, call 661-2184, give us your name and address for our list and bring a pie or two when you come to Harvest Faire.
Profile: Beverly Welker
By Arlene Wands

If your classic definition of a librarian is “bookish and boring” – you have not met Beverly Welker. The Historical Society was lucky enough to have her “bookish” talents for several years; she categorized, numbered, and indexed “over a thousand pictures” during her stay as Photo Librarian. And yes, she once was a school librarian – for 24 years. “I think I’m a natural born cataloger,” she said. Figures.

But “boring”? Hardly. She was the cataloger-with-the-mostest, and the Society still feels her loss. She remains a member of the club, and her heart is true to anything historical. Perhaps a lot of people don’t realize what a “Photo Librarian” does.

“We would receive donations of pictures,” Beverly said, “and I set up a system of placing them in categories – downtown Troutdale, the river, the Harlow House,” etc. I would then give them a short caption, an explanation. I would assign each picture a number, so that it could be located again. And then I created an index of all the pictures.” Pictures of long-gone citizens passed her desk. The early days of Troutdale. The Poor Farm – when it really was. Poor, that is. “A lot of those pictures were very poignant,” she said.

Picture donations “come in spurts,” but it’s surprising the number of people who do think of a local Historical Society when stumbling across ancestral pictures. “People who no longer live in the area send in pictures,” said Beverly. “People whose ancestors lived here. And people who just like history.”

Beverly likes history. And though she lives in Southeast Portland, a little bit of Troutdale’s history mingles with her own.

“My aunt and uncle had a home on the Sandy River, not too far from the Stark Street Bridge,” she said. “And we used to love to visit them. The place was just like a park. Every year in the spring we’d go out and look for Lady Slippers.”

She calls herself “happily retired.” And yet this is one retiree who . . . . . . . hasn’t really retired. She delivers Meals-on-Wheels to shut-ins. She reads for OPB’s “Golden Hours,” a valuable service that not many know about.

“Golden Hours” is a radio station that operates off a side band of OPB,” she explained. “It’s dedicated to the blind and the housebound. Volunteers like myself are taped reading the daily paper, the grocery ads, or maybe a book of our choosing. These are then aired during certain time slots.”

Mention “volkswalking” and any stereotypical notion of the quiet, reserved librarian is dispelled once and for all. “It is so much fun!” Beverly exclaims, most enthusiastically. (For the uninformed, volkswalking is an international sport, originating in Germany. It consists of walking pre-designated routes, usually 6.2 miles (10K.) She continued her explanation. “Start by locating a volkswalking box (Troutdale’s is at the exit 17 Burger King). There you’ll find a map of the latest local route.”

“Bookish and boring”? Not this librarian.