

BYGONE TIMES

A Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

September, 2000

Sharon Nesbit, Editor, 665-0423

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' Dumplins! 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 hard-working 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.

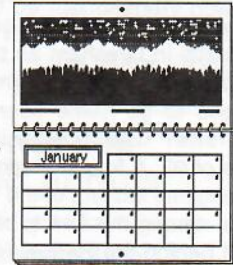
How Can I Help?

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 years' Harvest Faire, September 16 & 17. It offers something for everyone, and shouldn't be missed! See you all at the Faire!

CALENDAR

Inside this newsletter, a complete calendar for our winter meeting series for you to clip and save



Position open Society seeks full-time director

Our historical society activities have grown to the point that they must be under the command of a full-time paid director, the board of directors concluded at their August meeting.

The hiring of a full-time person to direct our affairs is the next step in a set of goals determined in a long-range plan for our organization. To that end, the society has been saving money and set up an account for that purpose. A 'nest egg' for a full-time salary was created with help from Helen Althaus, Bonnie Irwin, June Nasmyth, Bob & Louise Dix, Jeanne Pulliam, and most recently, Lee Larson.

Because it has been our good fortune in the past to find capable people within our own membership, we print here the position and its description. If you have an interest in the work and would like to discuss it with our board, or know someone who would like such a job, please submit a resume:

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 Belsher** 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 trail 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 our 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 Faire...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 Hybskmann, Jim Cook, Marge Schmunk, Mario Ayala, Pat Smith, Sharon Nesbit**...Welcome to new member, **Marilynn Byroads**, a gift membership from **Lois 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 Hansard, Nancy Cox

In memory of Dick Rethwisch

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 Trekker 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. 25 -- 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

Eighty-eight old cars come to town

The July 22 All American Highway celebration, marking the reopening of two previously abandoned sections of the Historic Columbia River Highway, was a wonderful party and a feast for the eyes.

Early Saturday the vehicles and their owners, many dressed in vintage clothing, began their parade from Troutdale to The Dalles with a pancake breakfast at Mayor Square and a "park-in" along the historic highway in downtown Troutdale.

Sharon Nesbit was Master of Ceremonies at the event, telling the car owners that when the first cars came to Troutdale on the highway, automobiles were regarded as rich men's toys and the best building in the area was the Multnomah County Poor Farm.

But three things happened to make a difference, she told the group. First, local residents learned they could hire out with their teams to build the modern road. Second, local residents figured out that the motorists had money and set their 'traps' accordingly, fruit and vegetable stands, tea rooms, sales of gasoline and tire patches, fried chicken restaurants and, certainly, a few subtle moonshine stands.

Finally, Henry Ford began to make a car that everyone could afford and many folks in Troutdale bought automobiles and joined the parade.

Similar stories were told prior to the event when Oregon Public Broadcasting reporter Kristian Foden-Vencil came to the Harlow House to interview Vera Ruegg, Jean Hybskmann, Mary Bryson and Sharon Nesbit about the highway. Ruegg explained that her father was a powder man who helped to blast sections of the roadway.

That interview was on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" a week before the event, a real first for our historical society.

In memory

Recent deaths of members or former members include Joyce Forquer and Dick Rethwisch.

Joyce lent a hand in the Harlow House gardens.

Dick Rethwisch was a longtime friend of our organization and lived across the street from Bob Strebin.

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 black smith to tell his wife to come over and pick them but don't think the darn cuss told her as I can't miss any at all, maybe she is afraid of me.



Troutdale's history comes alive through the letters of Newt Parsons. Ginger Harlow Allen recently donated to copies of her grandfather's letters to her grandmother, Mary McNeel Parsons.

Written over the years 1914 to 1918, they give us a glimpse into the daily struggles of those living in Troutdale.

Newt Parsons writes about family and friends who fell to a small pox epidemic in the summer of 1918, the troop trains that passed through Troutdale, carrying young men to World War I, and the struggle to make enough money to support his wife and two children.

He describes his daily work from helping to preserve the berries and vegetables in his yard, to loading crates of produce onto the trains that rumbled through Troutdale.

We learn of a train-automobile accident at Cascade Locks that killed four and of a detour that sent cars from Stark Street down Buxton to Troutdale. Newt wrote, "There were sure a lot of machines through here today, they still have the base line closed down to the club house, also the Sandy road is closed between here and Fairview, so that throwed almost all the travel by our place. there were machines going through ever little while all night last night too."

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.

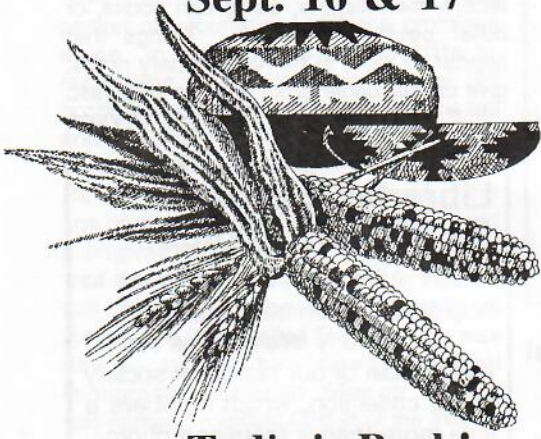
Can you bake a cherry pie, Billy boy?

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 661-2164, give us your name and address for our list and bring a pie or two when you come to Harvest Faire.

Troutdale Historical
Society
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Troutdale, OR 97060

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Harvest Faire Sept. 16 & 17



Tad's is Back!

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 uninitiated, 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.