

# Bygone Times

A Newsletter of The Troutdale Historical Society.



MARCH, 1992

EDITOR SHARON NESBIT, 665-0423

## A VISIT TO MENUCHA...

We are off on a jaunt to Menucha at Corbett for our next historical society meeting at 1 p.m., Sunday, March 15. Please note the earlier time.

Thanks to the kindness of Mac and Carolyn McCall and Portland's First Presbyterian Church, which owns it, we are invited for a tour of the lovely old home summer retreat of former Oregon Governor Julius Meier and his family. We will explore the house, now called Wright Hall, see Meier's famous peephole where he could spy on his guests in the living room and, perhaps, get a look at the hidden bar the grandchildren called "Grandpa's funny room."

We will tour the grounds, if weather permits, and have refreshments courtesy of Menucha and our cookie bakers Sue Davis and Nancy Cox.

Menucha is located at 38711 E. Crown Point Highway a few miles east of "downtown" Corbett. The entrance is a one-way loop drive. You may drop passengers at Wright Hall and park at the designated lot about a half block east.

The house was built in 1926 and 1927 for Meier, who was one of the owners of the Meier and Frank Stores.

The property was first homesteaded by an English sailor, John Painter, and his Hawaiian wife and children. They fled the islands when family members were exposed to leprosy. Four family members are buried in a remote spot on the grounds.

Meier bought the land in 1914, shortly after construction of the Historic Columbia River Highway. His previous home, built on the same location, succumbed to dry rot and carpenter ants. The house we will visit was designed by architect Herman Bookman. The swimming pool offers a spectacular view of the gorge.

Menucha, named by the Meiers, means "still, peaceful, refreshing and renewing." The estate was purchased by First Presbyterian Church of Portland in 1950. Menucha is now a retreat and conference center.

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS...

Our annual dues collection has produced some new members of our society. Greetings to: CATHY & COLBY SIEBOLD, TERRY WEINER, JIM & LINDA MURPHY, MICHAEL HIGGINS, MORRIS MCGINNIS, HOMER CAMPBELL, EARL RIDINGS, and LESLIE GUSTAFSON.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU...

Many thanks to David Ripma, who opened Sweet Brier Farm house to our society for our February reception. And to Sam and Nancy Cox, who provided the ice cream and beautiful anniversary cake.

It was a chance to celebrate our 24th year as well as see a historic farm home. The gathering drew a few of the curious who had always wanted to see the inside of the handsome old house, but were much too polite to peek in the windows.



A trip to Menucha on Sunday, March 15.

A SPRING TREK TO THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY...

Spring is coming on and it is a good time to head south for a Willamette Valley Trek to Salem, Independence and Dallas, capped by a champagne dinner, all on Saturday, March 21.

Join Trekmaster Sharon Nesbit for a jaunt by comfy bus to Salem to the Gilbert House, a hands-on children's museum also for big kids. This historic home and museum from the family of the Gilbert who developed the Erector Set.



From there south Independence for a tour of its historic district, antique shopping and lunch on your own. Bring a lunch or buy a meal there.

Then to the Brunk House and Century Farm, a house with outbuildings similar to the Harlow House. Then to the pretty town of Dallas with the beautiful Polk County Courthouse, a museum and the Muir & McDonald Tannery and leather museum, open since 1863. This is reminiscent of the tannery that once operated in Troutdale.

From there to the Cynthian Cafe, (Dallas was once called Cynthian) where we feast on dinner that starts with champagne (or sparkling cider), moves on to Chicken Supreme and ends with warm peach cobbler. Dinner, transportation and all admissions are included for \$45 a person.

WANT TO JOIN US? We need a final nose count by March 13 in order to notify the restaurant and the bus company. To reserve a seat, send your check to: Spring Trek, Troutdale Historical Society, 104 S.E. Kibling St., Troutdale, OR 97060.

The bus leaves Troutdale City Hall at 9 a.m. We will return by 9 p.m. or slightly before.

OUR NEW OFFICERS...

February's election resulted in two new board members for 1992. Welcome Cathy Hamme and Dick Jones. And to David Ripma who moved from the board to the vice-presidency.

Sam Cox agreed to serve one more term as president, but announced he will step down next year. Marge Schmunk was reelected treasurer and Barbara Welsh will serve another year as secretary. Heidi Wilson was reelected to the board.

Ted Schulte and Bob Sturges retired to become ex-officio members of the board.

Our new faces, Cathy Hamme and Dick Jones, are not so new. Cathy was Harlow House groundskeeper for several years and now has taken on cataloging artifacts for both the Harlow House and the Rail Depot. Dick Jones is our supervisor of barn construction and in charge of maintenance at the Harlow House.

TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF JANUARY 31, 1992...

Endowment Fund.....	\$12,189.80
Operating Account.....	7,927.65
Dedicated Barn Funds.....	633.69
Barn Building Fund.....	10,135.54
Director's Salary Fund.....	1,500.00
TOTAL.....	32,386.68

The jump in the endowment fund reflects an \$8,000 gift from the estate of Alex Jones. The increase in the barn fund and the creation of a Director's Salary Fund are the result of moving surplus funds from the

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### HERE'S TO MEMBERS OF THE DIRECTOR'S CLUB...

Twelve memberships have been purchased so far in our Director's Club, a new membership category to help pay the cost of a director for our society.

Director's Club memberships came from: FLORENCE BAKER, MAXINE & VIRGIL CARMICHAEL, SAM & NANCY COX, LOLA FELLMAN, EVELYN JACOBSON, LOIS MILLER, BILL & SHARON NESBIT, GLENN & HELEN OTTO, JEANNE PULLIAM, ROBERT & VERA STREBIN, BOB & DOROTHY STURGES and BEVERLY WELKER.

Those dues will buy 30 more half days of work directing the affairs of our society and running our museums. On a four-day a week basis, the Director's Club money expands our museum season by seven and one-half weeks.

President Sam Cox said of the Director's Club memberships: "This shows how much people believe in what we're doing." Thanks to all who were able to to be so generous.

If you have not yet paid your dues and want to be a part of the Director's Club, just mark the appropriate spot on your dues envelope. Director's Club dues are \$50 per person, \$75 per couple annually. If you have already paid dues and wish to increase your membership status, send a check less the amount of dues you have already paid.

### ABOUT OUR BARN MUSEUM...

Though the wiring of the barn has been slowed by the inevitable delays, Jacques Renard and Bob Jacobs continue to work weekends wiring our museum barn. you got a chance to meet them at the reception at Sweet Brier Farm.

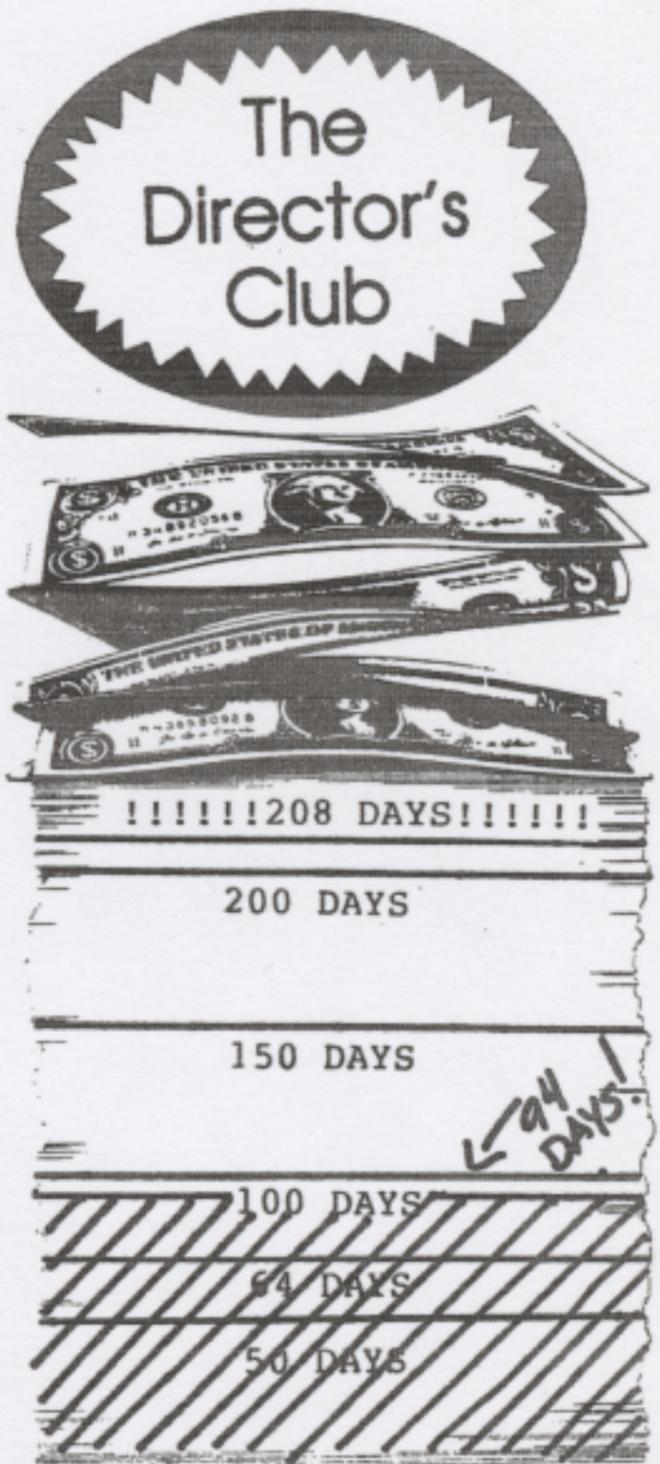
Because of the need to put all wiring underground, the actual electrical connection is still in progress and will increase our costs by about \$1,500 to run conduit under the Historic Columbia River Highway. At the same time we are planning ahead to the underground wiring to serve the Harlow House.

Seeing that we get this done is Ed Ashley, who has volunteered before on barn work. Ed's effort is particularly appreciated as Dick Jones, who usually herds the barn effort along, will be laid up for a time for surgery and is currently spending much of his free time visiting medicine men.

Because of Dick's surgery and recuperation, we will likely clean up the barn after the electrical work is completed and take a pause before the next step.

### AMONG OUR FRIENDS...

MYRTA WEATHERHEAD writes to ask for a book of Troutdale history. Coming up, just as soon as a director comes on line to free Sharon Nesbit...What an overflow crowd we had at Troutdale School for the presentation of the centennial marker and some reminiscing...Greetings to Charles and Edna Ellis, Hermiston, married 60 years on March 7.



THANKS TO ALL...

Many of you sent additional gifts with your dues checks. Gifts to the general fund came from MR. & MRS. DOMINIC BALESTERI, WEIR & MARIE OWENS, HAROLD & MYRTA WEATHERHEAD (in memory of Alex Jones), ROBERT WINKLER, VERA SEHCN, HELEN REES, JACQUELYN DOLAN, ALICE HARTJE, MALCOLM & VIRGINIA BOSLAR (who was just heading to the hospital for a knee replacement), ELINOR LEVIN, ROY MEGER & ELSIE SIMNITT.

Gifts to the endowment fund came from HAROLD & MYRTA WEATHERHEAD and ROBIN & CINDY LEHMAN & FAMILY.

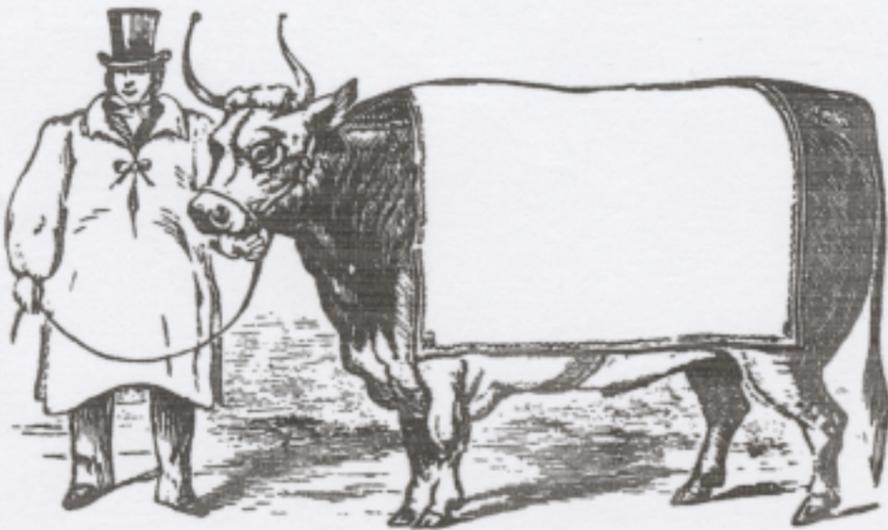
Donations to the barn fund came from JOHN & KAY POWERS, MIKE & ELAINE DUBESA (in memory of Alex Jones), ROBIN & CINDY LEHMAN AND FAMILY, SAM & NANCY COX (in memory of Bill Baker, Warren Bryan and Midge Labberton), and ELSIE SIMNITT (in memory of Bill Baker.)

We received a gift in memory of Ed Culp from Glenn and Helen Otto. Ed was a friend of our society and author of several Oregon history books. Vera Strebin sent a gift in memory of Louise Crutcher Mortenson and Marguerite Wright Campbell in memory of her parents William J. and Mary Wright.

NAMEDROPPERS...ROY MEGER & ELSIE SIMNITT sold \$500 worth of our Troutdale T-shirts from the Troutdale General Store. Our supply of large sizes is gone, but for small or medium ones, ask at the Harlow House museum...New member NANCY COLLINS is chairwoman of our June ice cream social...CATHY HAMME, head of the plant sale, says now is the time to pot up starts for that sale--outdoor plants preferred...Still needed: chair persons for the Harvest Faire and for Granny's Attic in September...If you are cleaning out and find gently-used treasures, remember Granny's Attic. All profits go to the barn. Donations may be left on the front porch of the Harlow House.

TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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IN MARCH: A VISIT TO MENUCHA,  
A TRIP TO THE WILLAMETTE  
VALLEY