



ByGone Times

Quarterly Newsletter of the Troutdale Historical Society

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Long Live the Queen:

Honoring Sharon Nesbit with a Park

If you were anywhere near Troutdale City Hall on February 25th, you might have caught the sounds of roaring applause, heartfelt laughter, and even a few teary-eyed sniffles. The reason? The first order of business at the City Council meeting was something truly special—honoring the one and only Sharon Nesbit. And not just with a plaque or a ceremonial key to the city. No, Troutdale decided to do something bigger, something worthy of a legend. The city's soon-to-be-completed riverfront park will now be known as Sharon Nesbit Heritage Park. The Kellogg Room was packed with friends, admirers, and lifelong readers who gathered to celebrate the woman who has spent decades documenting Troutdale's history with her signature wit, warmth, and just the right amount of sass. Speaker after speaker shared personal stories of Sharon's invaluable contributions—preserving historic landmarks, fighting to keep Troutdale's stories alive, and crafting newspaper columns that could make you laugh, cry, and maybe even check twice to see if you were being mentioned. Beyond her writing, Sharon has been instrumental in efforts to save and celebrate historic properties, most notably the former Multnomah County Poor Farm, now known as

McMenamins Edgefield. Her advocacy and storytelling have played a pivotal role in preserving the rich history of Troutdale and the surrounding areas. If there was a forgotten tale to uncover, you could bet Sharon had already found it—and likely added a witty comment or two along the way. When the big announcement was finally made, Sharon, never one to let a good moment pass without a quip, asked, "Will there be a small plot for me?" Quick on his feet, City Manager Ray Young responded with a grin, "That's much larger than we need, Sharon." The room erupted in laughter. Councilor Glenn White summed up the sentiment perfectly: "I'm just glad we're not doing this posthumously." Though the official City Council vote is still pending (a bit of bureaucratic maneuvering was needed to keep the surprise under wraps), there's no doubt it's a done deal. The park, featuring a beautiful 12-foot-wide multi-use path with breathtaking views of the Sandy River, is set to open this summer. It will be a place where residents can stroll, reflect, and perhaps even jot down a few words in Sharon's honor. The choice to name it a Heritage Park is no accident. History is about what happened—the facts, the dates, the people. But heritage is about what we cherish, what we pass down, and how we connect to the past. Sharon has spent her life blending the two seamlessly, reminding us that history isn't just names and dates—it's stories, humor, and the occasional moment that makes you shake your head and laugh. Troutdale wouldn't be Troutdale without Sharon Nesbit. And now, thanks to this incredible honor, it never has to be. Long live the Queen of Troutdale! (continued on page 4)

Barn Exhibit Hall

Thurs - Sun / Noon - 3pm

Rail Depot

Mon - Wed / 9am - 3pm
Thurs - Sun / 9am - 5pm

Harlow House

Thurs - Sun / Noon - 3pm

New Exhibits at the Depot and Barn Hall

All aboard! The Depot Museum is taking you on a journey through time with our newest exhibit, Exploring the Train Travel Experience, opening February 6th. Step back into the thrilling era of passenger rail travel and discover the glamour of Union Pacific's Portland Rose and Challenger trains, which connected Portland to Chicago and beyond. Marvel at original menus, fine dishware, vintage playing cards, an interior train lamp, and stunning photos that capture the romance and excitement of train travel. Whether you're a history enthusiast or a train lover, this exhibit promises an unforgettable experience that will transport you to the golden age of railroads! But that's not all—we have something equally thrilling lined up for you! Starting April 1, 2025, we'll be unveiling a brand-new exhibit at the Barn Exhibit Hall that celebrates the rich history of Troutdale's beloved businesses. Get ready to explore a fascinating collection of artifacts that tell the stories of the local establishments that shaped our town's past. It's going to be a fun, exciting journey through Troutdale's entrepreneurial roots that you won't want to miss!



FRIENDS OF HISTORY REMEMBERED

Terry Alan Tipsord

July 1, 1952 - February 6, 2025



Terry Alan Tipsord, a beloved husband, father, and community leader, passed away on February 6, 2025, at age 72. Born July 1, 1952, in Bloomington, Illinois, Terry moved to Troutdale, Oregon, in 1992, where he made a profound impact. He helped shape the community by organizing the first Summerfest, helped in the developing of Imagination Station, and contributing to the growth of downtown Troutdale. Terry was awarded Citizen of the Year in 1999. He founded Daybreak Business Development, ran for Oregon State Representative in 2024, and served as an instructor at MHCC. Terry is survived by his wife, Amy, and daughters, Sarah and Emily.

Audrey Lea Lowell

August 28, 1943 - November 6, 2024

The Troutdale Historical Society mourns the loss of Audrey Lea Lowell, a dedicated historian, volunteer, and friend. Born in Texas, Audrey's journey took her across the world as a teacher and school psychologist before settling in Troutdale in 2005 with her husband, Jon D. Lowell. She served on the THS board and the Troutdale Historic Landmark Commission, contributing nearly 300 hours of service to preserving our community's past. Audrey's passion for history, kindness, and unwavering support made an indelible mark on our society. Whether leading projects or sharing stories, she inspired those around her. Her dedication will not be forgotten, and her legacy lives on in the history she helped safeguard. We are forever grateful for her contributions.



HISTORY PUBS**~Blackberry Hall at McMenamins Edgefield~****2126 SW Halsey St, Troutdale, OR 97060****Doors at 6:00pm / Program at 7:00pm / \$5****Monday, April 14th****Yes! Yes! Yes! 56 years of the Oregon Country Fair****Presented by: Terry Baxter**

The Oregon Country Fair began in 1969 as a fundraiser for a local alternative school and has since become an Oregon Heritage Festival, attracting 45,000 people annually. This three-day celebration in the forest features music, art, food, and philanthropy while promoting creativity and cultural transformation. Archivist Terry Baxter, with 40 years of experience, preserves its history. A leader in his field, he has worked with Multnomah County and the Oregon Country Fair, shaping archival practices nationwide.

Yarn at the Barn**Presented by: Jamie LaCour**

Get ready to craft, create, and connect! Our free fiber arts program is back, kicking off on the first Wednesday of every month from 10:00 am until noon. Join us monthly at the Barn Exhibit Hall to learn new skills, share techniques, and enjoy crafting camaraderie. The program is FREE and open to ages 14+—supplies available for beginners. Don't miss out!

*Apr 2nd - May 7th - Jun 4th - Jul 2nd**Aug 6th - Sep 3rd - Oct 1st - Nov 5th - Dec 3rd***Sunday, May 4th****The Book Nook: A Local Author Book****Signing**

Join us for our Annual Local Author Book Signing on Sunday, May 4th, from Noon to 3 PM at the Barn Exhibit Hall Museum! Meet local authors, grab signed copies, and enjoy 10% off all books during the event. Check our website and social media for author updates!

Tuesday, April 15th**Friends & Family Half Night****Presented by: McMenamins Edgefield**

Join us on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at the Power Station Pub, McMenamins Edgefield, for a delicious way to support history! From 5 pm to close, half of all sales will benefit the Troutdale Historical Society. Enjoy great food, drinks, and community while helping preserve local history. Bring your friends and family—every bite makes a difference.


[FaceBook.com/TroutdaleHistory.org](https://www.facebook.com/TroutdaleHistory.org)

www.TroutdaleHistory.org

[Instagram.com/BarnMuseum](https://www.instagram.com/BarnMuseum)
THS PRESENTS**~Glenn Otto Park in the Sam Cox Building~****1102 E Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR 97060****Doors at 1:00pm / Program at 2:00pm / FREE****Sunday, April 13th****Mrs. Margaret Henderson, Mother of the Columbia River Highway****Presented by: Linda Holden**

Join us for the THS Annual Meeting and a captivating presentation by Linda Holden, great-granddaughter of Mrs. M.E. Henderson, the "Mother of the Columbia River Highway." This free event is open to all ages and includes snacks, refreshments, and exciting door prizes!

From 1915 to 1927, Mrs. Henderson owned the Crown Point Chalet, where she became one of the highway's greatest advocates. Known for her famous chicken dinners and exceptional hospitality, she turned the chalet into a beloved stop for travelers and played a key role in promoting the Columbia River Highway. Her influence helped shape the history of Oregon's most scenic roadway and its historic roadhouses.

Don't miss this chance to learn about one of Oregon's most influential women, hear incredible stories from the past, and enjoy a fun, community-filled afternoon. Join us for history, snacks, and prizes—absolutely free!

Columbia Kids Club**~Troutdale Masonic Hall~****202 SE Dora Ave, Troutdale, OR 97060****Programs are from 3:00 pm until 5:00 pm/FREE****Sunday, June 29th****Pioneer's Day**

Step back in time to experience the life of pioneers who shaped our local history.

Sunday, September 28th**Troutdale's Artistic Legacy**

Explore the artistic history of Troutdale and the talented individuals who left their mark.

Sunday, December 21st**Troutdale Through the Ages**

Discover the changes Troutdale has seen, from its earliest days to the present.

(continued from page 1)

If the front page wasn't enough proof, let these photos tell the story—Sharon Nesbit's big night was one for the ages. The first image captures Sharon sharing a laugh with longtime friend and historian Len Otto after her now-iconic quip: "Will there be a plot for me?" It was a classic Sharon moment—quick, witty, and unforgettable. The second image is the moment Sharon learned that Troutdale's newest riverfront park will bear her name. Her face says it all—shock, joy, and maybe just a bit of playful mischief—while the room erupted in cheers. The third image is perhaps the most meaningful of all—Sharon standing on the very land that will soon be transformed into the park bearing her name. A fitting scene for someone who has spent her life protecting and preserving the heart of Troutdale. The evening was filled with heartfelt speeches, warm memories, and deep appreciation for a woman who has dedicated her life to keeping Troutdale's history alive. But the best part? Sharon isn't done yet. If you'd like to learn more about Sharon or read her amazing books, visit the Barn Exhibit Hall Museum Gift Shop (732 E. Historic Columbia River Highway, Troutdale, OR 97060) Thursday – Sunday, Noon – 3:00 pm, or browse online at www.TroutdaleHistory.org. A perfect tribute to the woman who made sure Troutdale's stories will never be forgotten.



IN MEMORY DONATIONS

~ *In Memory Of Colleen Mershon* ~

Sandy & Ronald Evans

~ *In Memory of Jo & Don Palmateer* ~

Sharon & Tom Arbuckle

NEW MEMBERS

Angel Garza - Bruce Haney - Carl Kloos - Corrina Allen -
 Edward Palmquist - Elissa & Jacob VanArsdall -
 Johnathon Peterson - Juliana Garza - Mark Nelsen -
 Maryia & Jason Dewey - Matt & Monica Garcia - Tina
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Thank You to Our Amazing Donors, Supporters, Members, and Volunteers of 2024!

We send a big, heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who has supported us in 2024—our donors, supporters, new members, volunteers, and guests. Your generosity, dedication, and enthusiasm keep the spirit of Troutdale's history alive and thriving! To our donors and supporters—your contributions, big and small, help us preserve the rich heritage of our community. You are the foundation of everything we do, and we couldn't achieve our mission without you. To our new members and volunteers—welcome to the family! Your involvement breathes life into our work, whether you're guiding tours, assisting with events, or sharing your skills. You make a difference every day, and we are so grateful to have you on board. We're always looking for passionate individuals to join our team of volunteers. If you'd like to get involved, please reach out to us at director@troutdalehistory.org or call 503-661-2164. Here's to an exciting year ahead, full of new stories, new faces, and the continued preservation of Troutdale's vibrant history. Thank you again for being part of our journey!

Thanks to the Multnomah County Museum Levy Fund, all Multnomah County residents can explore Troutdale's rich history for FREE at our three museums! Discover the stories of our community, from early settlers to historic landmarks. If you receive EBT, enjoy free admission through the Museums for All program. Come experience Troutdale's past—your history, your museums!

A Message from the President of THS

The Troutdale Historical Society kicked off 2025 with a packed house for Channel 12 Meteorologist Mark Nelsen's talk on major historic snow and ice events of our area. Huge thanks to our volunteers! Special appreciation to Jason Cawood, who held critical wires together to keep the video running. He's also now our IT support, keeping THS's systems running—thank you, Jason! We have an exciting lineup of events ahead—thanks to Margaret Rice and the THS Program Committee. Check this newsletter for dates. Director Chris Garza introduced a Student Volunteer Policy, allowing students 16+ to help with museum upkeep, gardening, and events while gaining skills and appreciating history. We always welcome volunteers—thank you, Chris! Let's keep supporting THS throughout 2025!

With best wishes, sincerely,
 THS Board President
 Dave Ripma



THS BOARD

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Helen Wand

Director:

Christopher L. Garza

JUST THE OTHER DAY

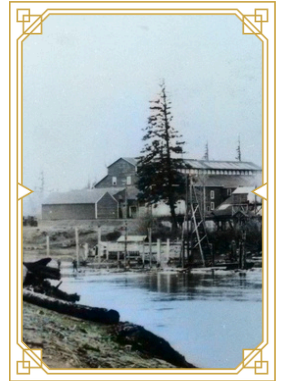


1907 – Troutdale Becomes Official

Troutdale officially incorporates, Aaron Fox becomes the first mayor, and Troutdale immediately catches fire. Just as the town is celebrating, a massive fire wipes out most of downtown, proving that early Troutdale had two things in abundance: ambition and extremely flammable buildings.

1907 – The Union Meat Company Packs Up

The Union Meat Company, which kept the town buzzing (and smelling like a giant smoked sausage), decides to move its operations to Portland. The town's economy takes a nosedive, and locals are forced to consider other career options—like complaining about the Union Meat Company.

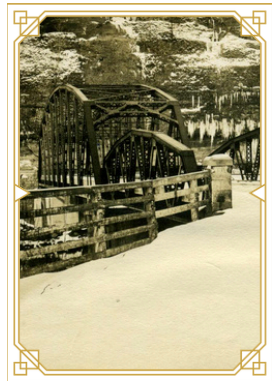
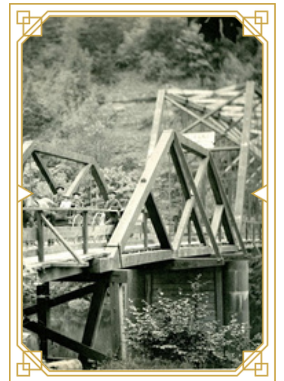


1913 – Troutdale's First Female Mayor

On December 3, Clara Latourell Larsson is elected as Troutdale's first female mayor, defeating the incumbent by five votes. Local men are stunned. The local women are not. The first thing she does? Probably shake her head at the mess she just inherited.

1914 – An Unscheduled Dive

On April 25, the old wooden bridge, known locally as the "Nielson Bridge", collapses, reminding everyone why putting too much weight on a rickety structure is never a good idea. The city decides it's time for an upgrade—preferably one that doesn't spontaneously disassemble.

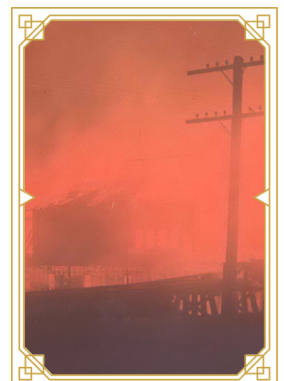


1915 – Troutdale Finally Gets a Proper Bridge

The new steel truss Stark Street Bridge is completed on January 10, replacing the old one that met a watery end after decades of questionable structural integrity. The new bridge is solid, sturdy, and unlikely to collapse under the weight of a gravel filled truck.

1915 – The Slaughterhouse Meets a Fiery End

Another fire hits Troutdale, this time taking out part of the old slaughterhouse. The townsfolk are left wondering if it was simply a tragic accident, or if, just maybe, it was an act of revenge by a particularly motivated pig. Either way, the fire leaves a charred mess, a few confused chickens, and the distinct smell of charred bacon in the air.



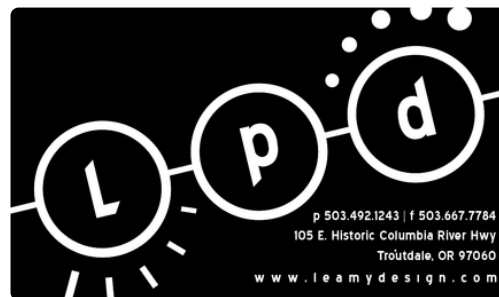
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Office Location:
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Troutdale, OR, 97060

Phone: 503-661-2164
Email: Troutdalehistory@gmail.com
Website: www.TroutdaleHistory.org

The Troutdale Historical Society is organized and shall be operated exclusively to gather, preserve and make available museum, record, and other material relating to the history of the community of Troutdale, the northern portion of the Sandy River, and nearby areas to stimulate an interest in, and knowledge of the locality's past.

Thank you for your support!



JOIN US AND ENJOY FREE ACCESS TO ALL OUR MUSEUMS, 10% OFF AT THE BARN STORE GIFT SHOP, QUARTERLY NEWSLETTERS DELIVERED RIGHT TO YOUR INBOX OR MAILBOX, AND \$10 OFF YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH THE OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

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