

Bygone Times



A Newsletter of The Troutdale Historical Society.

APRIL, 1989

EDITOR: Sharon Nesbit, 665-0423

ON APRIL 17, A GATHERING OF FRIENDS AND ONE NUN...

A one-woman dramatic presentation on the life of Mother Joseph, the Sister of Providence who came to the Northwest in 1856, will be the highlight of our meeting at 7:30 p.m., Monday evening, April 17, in the Great Hall at Troutdale City Park.

Joining with us will be our friends in history from neighboring historical societies in the Gresham, Fairview-Rockwood-Wilkes, Corbett and David Douglas areas. There will be a small admission fee of \$3 to help pay for the costs of the dramatic performance. And afterward we'll all visit over coffee and cookies.

The performance is part of Washington's centennial celebration. Joan Pinkerton Tucker, who will portray Mother Joseph, is a former newspaper woman who studied the nun's story and stepped into the role. Mother Joseph arrived in Portland on the ship Brother Jonathan with four other sisters. They built Oregon's first hospital, St. Vincent, and went on to build hospitals and orphanages throughout the Northwest. Mother Joseph strapped a tool belt over her habit and made a name for herself as the area's first architect.

AND A WELCOME TO MAY BRUNCH...

Mark your calendars for an end-of-the-month event, a lovely brunch prepared by members Rich and Dorothy Kerslake on Sunday, April 30, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Great Hall at Troutdale City Park.

The Kerslakes, who cooked up the wonderful food last month at our joint brunch with the Crown Point Historical Society and the Columbia Grange at Corbett, have offered to come to Troutdale and do it again.

We plan a Welcome to May theme with May baskets filled with flowers and a possible May Pole dance. Other surprises are also in the works. Advance tickets are on sale now. You can get one by calling an officer or a board member. Or tickets will be sold at the door. The price is \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for children 12 to 6, and children under 6 are free.

MEET YOU AT THE DEPOT...

The depot museum opens for its summer season on May 6 and will be open to visitors each Saturday and Sunday through September. Donna Hawkins, 663-5994, is in charge of scheduling volunteer hosts. (Many thanks to Doris Caramella, who has done it for the last three years.)

Being a depot host is fun. You get to meet the tourists traveling through town. You hear great old railroad stories from train buffs. And in the quiet moments, you can look through all of our historic photo collection.

Please pick a Saturday or Sunday and call Donna and volunteer.

WANT TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER?

If you like receiving our newsletter, it's a good idea to guarantee your spot on the mailing list by paying \$4 in dues. Just mail to Troutdale Historical Society, 104 S.E. Kibling, Troutdale, Ore. 97030.

And welcome to lifetime member, Gloria Witter.

ABOUT EDGEFIELD MANOR...

Some good things may be happening with Edgefield Manor. Recently, with the help of the Historic Preservation League of Oregon, we took two real estate brokers specializing in historic properties through the manor building.

John Tess of Heritage Consulting Group and Dick Thomas of Kennedy-Wilson, Inc., regard the manor as an excellent candidate for rehabilitation and believe they can sell it in a national auction of historic properties in July. Though the county has not yet acted to hire the firm, we have agreed that Edgefield should be part of that auction this year and next. If it does not sell after two auctions, then our historical society will not object to Multnomah County's request for a demolition permit.

You can help by calling or writing county commissioners to urge them to hire the marketing firm.

It is our goal to see Edgefield put back in condition and in use again. Even better, a private buyer would put the building back on the tax rolls.

The planning commission in March voted to preserve Edgefield through the marketing period, which lasts until September, 1990. The city council will consider the matter on April 11.

PAT ON THE BACK...

Winter Harlow House volunteers deserve a pat on the back. On cold, blowy Sundays when they must have wondered if it was worth the effort, they have showed up to play host at the Harlow House from 1 to 4 p.m. The result of the efforts of Virginia Murphy, Barbara Welsh, Sadie Riley and Jack and Roberta Burns is that we have had surprising winter attendance. On one day Virginia Murphy had 24 visitors, many of them children from Hall school in Gresham.

The other surprise is how much fun our hosts have had. "Such interesting people come," says Roberta Burns. "Oh, I loved showing the kids around and telling them about things," says Virginia Murphy. Barbara Welsh recently posed for pictures. Her visitors were two students from China who practiced their English on her. And if you show up on Sadie Riley's Sunday, she will feed you coffee and some kind of treat.

This is the first winter that our museum has been open every Sunday. It turns out to have been a good idea. Winter museum visitors are the sort of folks who have time to look at everything and ask a lot of questions.

MORE ABOUT OUR HARLOW HOUSE MUSEUM...

We recently applied for a state grant to help us run our museum. In the process we uncovered facts that may interest you. Counting the money we pay Cynthia Howe to work in the summer as our host/curator it costs us about \$3,000 to run the Harlow House each year. That includes utilities, maintenance, security system, cleaning and supplies. The reason we get by so inexpensively is that much of the work is volunteered, especially that of Dick Jones, who maintains the building, and Cathy Hamme who takes care of the grounds. In addition the City of Troutdale provides lawn mowing and other help.

We take in about \$500 in donations each year. In addition we sell recipes, notecards and photos amounting to about \$300.

In 1987 our museum was open only 164 hours during the year. In 1988 with the hiring of Cynthia Howe and the volunteer hosts program, we were open 426 hours and had 1,316 visitors. With the museum open five days a week in July, August and September, we averaged 200 visitors a month.

WE GET MAIL...

Matt Shields Sr. of Boring writes that his wife, Louese Shields is in a rest home in Sandy. She and her family lived in Troutdale during the 1920s in a home close to the site of our new museum barn. "She, after school and weekends, used to pump gas at a service station across from their home and close to the Troutdale-Sandy River Bridge. Louese rode the train to Gresham each day and walked to high school either from Ruby Station or Linnemann Junction for a year or two. Her father, Louie Drake Howard, carried mail in a Model A, the first motorized route in Oregon, from Portland main post office out Sandy Boulevard to Parkrose, Fairview and Troutdale, ending up each night at Gresham. The weather, ice, snow and East Wind got to him finally."

TROUTDALE FANS MEET AT STANFORD...

From former Harlow House caretaker Dennis Grahn comes a tale of a coincidental meeting at Stanford University, where Dennis has earned his doctorate in biological sciences:

"Now the amazing coincidence. My office mate in the basement of the biology building is a graduate student named Tom Matches. He grew up in the Midwest and graduated from University of Kansas. I met his father, Jerry Matches, who is a professor at Texas Tech, last week. He grew up in Troutdale and his wife is from Eastern Oregon. Apparently he lived up on the bluff above the Harlow House and has very fond memories of Troutdale, except for the wind. That seems to be the only negative thing he recalled. He specifically asked about Ted Schulte..."

"Anyway Tom's great-grandfather, A.D. Kendall, was the telegrapher at the Troutdale station for many years and most of the equipment in the museum was used by him. He devised a way to read two telegraph lines at the same time. Somehow he attached a metal container to one of the keys so that the resonance of the two lines was different and the sound from the two keys were distinguishable. To be able to concentrate and record two messages at once seemed quite a feat."

A.D. Kendall's daughter, Marjorie Matches, is a member of our society and lives in Kirkland, Wash.

CLIP AND SAVE LIST OF OFFICERS...

President: Sam Cox, 1703 SE Woodard Rd., Troutdale, Ore. 97060.
Telephone, 665-9086.

Vice president: Ted Schulte, 17655 SE Bluff Rd., #1, Sandy, Ore.
97055, Telephone, 668-9620.

Secretary: Barbara Welsh, 20421 NE Interlachen, Troutdale, Ore.,
97060, Telephone, 667-0801.

Treasurer: Marge Schmunk, 104 SE 40th, Troutdale, Ore. 97060
Telephone: 666-7706

Board Member: Bob Sturges, PO Box 426, Troutdale, Ore., 97060,
Telephone: 665-4896

Board member: Rankin Davis, PO Box 111, Troutdale, Ore., 97060
Telephone: 666-2665

Board Member: Gene Bui, 340 SW Halsey Loop, Troutdale, Ore. 97060,
Telephone: 667-3231

Ex-officio Board Members: Alex Jones, PO Box 173, Troutdale, Ore.,
97060, Telephone, 666-6718; Cathy Hamme, 202 SW 7th, Troutdale, Ore.
97060, Telephone, 667-7760; and Dick Jones, 8235 SE Morrison,
Portland, Ore., 97216, Telephone 252-4306.

Historian: Sharon Nesbit, 623 Buxton, Troutdale, Ore., 97060,
Telephone, 665-0423.

Membership Secretary: Joyce Stoeckel, 619 Buxton, Troutdale, Ore.
97060, Telephone, 665-0026.

THE MAN BEHIND THE DUMMY...

A story about Gail Meyers, Troutdale Depot donor, appeared in the the church bulletin of the United Church of Christ in Gresham.

Meyers, who spent most of his railroad career as a conductor, donated his uniform and built the mannequin for it for our Troutdale depot. The last 10 years of his career he was a conductor between Los Angeles and Chicago. As well as the uniform, Meyers gave his attache case used for carrying tickets, his personal ticket puncher and a number of service pins and other memorabilia.

NAME DROPPERS...

HARRIETT JECKEL sent a \$100 gift to the barn fund...CATHY HAMME and FLORENCE BAKER did house-cleaning and brought items for our giant fall rummage sale, Oct. 7 and 8 in the Great Hall at Troutdale City Park. If you have items, leave them on the Harlow House porch on bring them on Sundays and we will see that they are stashed away...DICK JONES salvaged a pulley, a manger and other items from the old Fisher barn that was being torn down on Northeast 162nd Ave. They will be put to use in our barn museum. He reports that the winter winds took a patch of shingles off the barn roof and knocked a tree over on the workshop roof at the west end but no major damage was done...FAYE HARLOW was the subject of our live interview at our March meeting. Watch for it on Eastside Journal, Channel 21, beginning April 5. Faye recently celebrated her 80th birthday...VIOLA CRAIG sent us a photo of Carl Larrison, early Troutdale saloon keeper and livery owner...Welcome to new member ELIZABETH GABELMAN...And thank you to DONNA KLUEHE for the donation of an illustration book to dress up this newsletter.

TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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A GATHERING
OF FRIENDS
IN HISTORY,
APRIL 17