MUSEUMS REOPENING JULY 2021
Harlow House Museum - Barn Exhibit Hall

We are happy and ready to greet guests again at our three museums. The Depot Rail Museum waiting room and station agent’s office are being renovated. We will have new neighbors in the office, the Troutdale Visitors Center. New things are happening at the east end of town.

Would there have been a Troutdale without the railroad depot? The museum opens for a “barebones” tour during the Troutdale First Friday, July 2nd, 5-8pm.

July 3rd & 4th Barn Exhibit Hall and Harlow House Museum reopen and every Saturday and Sunday after that, 11am - 3pm. Two new exhibits at the Barn Exhibit Hall feature Handy Bros. Service – Where Troutdale Met to Drink Bad Coffee, and Smelt in the Sandy.

In the Harlow House Museum are the World War II uniforms of Helen Dombkowski-Otto and Elizabeth (Betty) Baldwin, two Troutdale women who served in WWII Army Nurse Corps. Stop by to see these classy, exceptionally constructed, yet functional, uniforms. Helen Otto, wife of longtime Mayor Glenn Otto, was a founder of this historical society.
THS History Hunt September 3 - 19

Join the exciting History Hunt fund-raiser! Follow the clues and find the historical artifact or place. The Troutdale Historical Society is having its first ever History Hunt and Raffle. This is a family friendly, fun event with a bonus of learning about Troutdale history. Once you register, you'll be given clues pertaining to the history of Troutdale. You may need to go to a site, take a photo, answer a question, or get another clue. There will be a two-week time period to complete all the clues.

The $37 registration fee (THS members $27) includes your registration, one raffle ticket and a History Hunt T-shirt. To register come visit our THS Booth at the Depot Rail Museum on one of the next three First Fridays (July 2, August 6 or September 3) in Troutdale OR fill out the enclosed form and mail with your check to: 219 E Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, Oregon 97060 OR visit our website, troutdalehistory.org and sign up online.

Raffle drawing held September 19 at 2pm at the Fall Festival of the Arts event at Glenn Otto Community Park 1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy Troutdale, Oregon 97060. Who knows, you may be the winner of an overnight stay at McMenamins Edgefield, an ENVI Adventure airplane sight-seeing flight up the Columbia Gorge, or one of the other many prizes. Although you don’t have to be present to win, we encourage you to come and enjoy the Fall Festival of the Arts, attend the drawing, and maybe even dip your feet in the Sandy River.

Historic Multnomah Falls Painting Returns

A 6.5’w x 10.5’h painting would be hard to miss, yet over the past 10 years very few knew of its whereabouts. When the city hall staff vacated the 1922 historic City Hall in 2011 the enormous painting was carefully preserved in a sealed crate and stored in our museum barn with our artifacts. As the Depot Rail Museum building is in the throes of being renovated, city employee Marlee Boxler heads up a team to restore the painting for its new home at Troutdale’s Visitors Center. Boxler relates, "A wall has been designated for this painting. It will be the first thing you see when you walk into the visitors center."

Sharon Nesbit wrote about the painting’s history in her book, It Could Have Been Carpdale. George and Eloise Butler donated the painting; it was restored, framed and hung in the Council Chambers in time for the 1978 debut of City Hall's renovation. Research found that the Multnomah Hotel in Portland commissioned artist Hazel Alpha Harris to paint several paintings, including this one.

Art restorer Susan Scott-Larue will painstakingly bring this painting back to life. Donna Erwin of Columbia River Gallery is taking on the task of finding a frame for it. Erwin states, "It will need to be custom milled. It's impossible to find frames this big."
President's Message by Norm Thomas

First I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as President for the Troutdale Historical Society. I’m looking forward to working with everyone continuing to preserve our history. I’m pleased that after closing our museums to the public in March of 2020 that we are reopening the Harlow House Museum and Barn Exhibit Hall in July.

Although the museums were closed to the public, the staff and volunteers have been busy collecting and organizing our historical artifacts. We are planning to have a concert at the Barn museum for Troutdale’s First Friday in August. I look forward to seeing you at our events. Also I’m happy to report to you that the May 2021 ballot measure to support historical societies in Multnomah County passed. The funds that we receive from the bond measure help to support the Troutdale Historical Society.

Greetings from Poland

Postcard collector from Poland Łukasz Pawlak contacted me for a favor. He wanted a Troutdale postcard. I was pleased to be asked, but asked for a favor in return... a photo of him to include in our newsletter. True to his word, he received the postcard and sent me this photo.

LeAnn Stephan, Executive Director

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Another way to support TrOUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Pick up BottleDrop blue bags at the Barn Exhibit Hall. Look for the box of bags outside on the bench - Fill with redeemable empty bottles and cans and drop off at any BottleDrop locations. Funds will automatically be deposited and donated to THS.

Thank you for the increased interest in our BottleDrop fundraiser. With your support we have received $507.00 this year from the folks who recycle their cans and bottles through BottleDrop using one of our labeled bags.

East County Drop off locations:
Wood Village Redemption Center 23345 NE Halsey Street 23345 NE Halsey Street
Wood Village, OR 97060 Gresham, OR 97030

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Fred Meyer Rewards Card

www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards

THS gets contributions from Fred Meyer. Please enroll, using our non-profit #JA801.

AMAZON SMILE

Go to http://smile.amazon.com

Simply select Troutdale Historical Society as your charity. Shop as you normally would. THS receives a contribution from Amazon.

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349 MEMBERS OF THE TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Help us reach our goal of 500 members!

Are you a member?

Give a gift of membership to the next generation, friends, family or become a member by clicking here.

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Troutdale Historical Society Board Members & Staff

Executive Board
President: Norm Thomas
Vice President: Bettianne Goetz
Treasurer: Joy Beldin
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Kelly Broomall, Tim Hills,
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Past Presidents
Erin Janssens, Bettianne Goetz, Sharon Nesbit, Len Otto, Dave Ripma

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Renew your membership or donate through our website. Click on the links below.

Donations
Memberships

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SUMMER MUSEUM HOURS
May - September

Barn Exhibit Hall
11am - 3pm Saturday & Sunday
Closed: Monday - Friday

Harlow House
11am - 3pm Saturday & Sunday
Closed: Monday - Friday

Depot Rail Museum
TBD
**Kendall House - A Place in History**

A D Kendall first set foot in Troutdale in 1907, arriving from Biggs, Oregon, to be a station agent in the new town of Troutdale.

He and his family lived in the top floor of what was then a two-story depot north of the railroad tracks. That depot was destroyed in a fire in 1907 and our present depot replaced it, likely that same year. Kendall would make the new depot a garden spot with flower beds planted all around.

Kendall was prominent in the city, a signer of the petition to incorporate the town, active in helping local farmers find markets along the rail line for their crops, and he and his wife, Ada, became gladiolus farmers when Troutdale glads were famous. After her death Kendall married Margaret Ashworth Knarr.

The Kendalls had Harry Bramhall build their home on the Columbia River Highway in 1929. It is on the south side near the Troutdale Gateway Arch. It was recently purchased by Shalynn Rivas & Coby Robinett who have a deep interest in its history.

Harry Bramhall was Troutdale’s premier home builder. He built a home for the Cereghinos on Troutdale Road that is similar to the Bramhall house. However, the unique stucco siding with an element of glass, was painted over in the latter house. The original stucco still exists on the Kendall House.

THS member Greg Handy was the little kid in the house next door when he met A D Kendall and enjoyed many a trip down the curving Kendall driveway in his Radio Flyer wagon.

After Kendall’s death in 1957 his oldest daughter, Evelyn, and her husband Julius Lampert moved into the home. Their daughter, Lucille Lampert Tolbert, well known for being a cook at Tad’s Chicken n’ Dumplins, was the last family member to live there. She died last year.

The building on the corner of the lot, now Ye Olde Pub, had many uses. Lucille Tolbert lived in it. Previous to that it was the Southern Chicken Inn, Ig Wand’s fruit stand, Tharp’s restaurant, the Swamp Tavern and the Quagmire, to name a few.

Greg Handy also remembers the building before the addition was also used to sell flower bulbs. “The building on the corner of 2nd & Buxton was used (I think) to process for shipping. I recall Dad talking about A D Kendall being one of the first to ship via refrigerated rail car. I don’t know if that is correct or not. Our grandma Mabel worked for a time before the kitchen fire. A family that rented the building raised chickens outside, housed in gutted TV cabinets, sort of “chicken under glass,” or “Chicken Soap Opera”... also Julius “Jack” Lampert was (I think) a WWII Veteran and certainly a “regular” at Handy Brothers coffee shop. He had many stories to share as well as his home brewed beer. There was a perfectly good reason he served it in small, I mean small water glasses. Occasionally a batch would self detonate in his basement, both an unwelcome noise as well as a welcome tribute to his brewing expertise. He was a great guy.”
Fujii Family Remembered

The recent obituary of Edward Fujii offers an excellent piece of history about the forced removal of Japanese Americans during World War II and the experiences of Troutdale's Fujii family. It also tells the story of Troutdale's Charlotte Cunningham. She was the mother of Scott Cunningham who served as president of the Troutdale Historical Society from 2006 - 2010.

While the last piece of Kaz Fujii's farm is now an apartment complex across from Cherry Park Center, another branch of the Jim Fujii family continues to grow and sell berries in Troutdale. Kaz Fujii was already in the U.S. Army when the war started. He always joked that his family was sent away and the Army gave him a gun. Jim Fujii remembered that when his family was first incarcerated at the Portland Exposition Center, he had a great time because all he had to do there was play baseball.

Edward Harumi Fujii, a former resident of Troutdale, Gresham, and Portland died May 22, 2021 after a short illness at age 98. Edward was born into a large, emigrated Japanese family in Troutdale April 1, 1923, the son of Bukichi and Yoshino Fujii. The family, eventually six boys and two girls, purchased a 79 acre farm that became a well known local fixture selling produce at the Portland Farmers Market and various berry crops to the public and to Gresham Berry Growers. The farm continued to expand from that initial 79 acre parcel. Edward attended Troutdale Grade School and graduated from Gresham High School, as did all of his siblings.

Events following the Pearl Harbor attack Dec. 7, 1942 and the second World War would largely define the family’s fortunes, in common with all Japanese Americans in the Pacific Coast states. Initially, after the attack, as a senior in Gresham High School Edward experienced no hostility whatsoever. However, his father was classified as an alien, and in common with all Pacific Coast residents and U.S. citizens of Japanese descent, faced relocation and internment as a "security measure" in spite of virtually no evidence of espionage or threat. On May 7, 1942 the family was ordered to report to the Pacific Livestock Exposition Center in North Portland with only what they could carry in suitcases for indefinite and uncertain internment under the official guise of "protection."

Facing community hostility, most families had to sell their homes and all properties under short notice and duress, at a staggering loss. The Fujii family, however were able to recruit a neighboring family, Charlotte and Scott Cunningham, to live in the house and take over all farming activities. Ironically, Edward's oldest brother had been drafted in 1941 and was already serving the U.S. in the military.

The Fujii family chose, rather than live incarcerated in internment camps, to relocate to Nyssa, Ore., where they were allowed to live and work as critical farm laborers. Military recruitment had severely reduced the farm labor force. The family initially lived in tents and worked hard and were eventually relocated to former army barracks of the inactive CCC camp at Adrian. Together with other Portland area families, Edward pursued his wife-to-be, Aya Iwasaki, from the large Iwasaki family farm business in Hillsboro, Ore.

The irony of those years was that the entire Japanese "farm labor" contingent in Nyssa had only to cross the Snake River into Idaho to be free of all restrictions. During 1943 Edward was able to attend Brigham Young University for two terms until, with a reversal of policy, Japanese Americans were again drafted to serve on the European front. Edward served and yet did not need to go overseas as the war ended.

The family returned to their farm in the Troutdale area and expanded their holdings, eventually taken over by his brothers. Edward stepped back from farming and became a wholesale produce broker, under the name of Ed Fujii Produce, selling to large grocery chains. Edward retired in 1990 and sold the business which still operates under his original name.
Jason Cawood has been honing his skills as a narrator as he works on a presentation for the "Barebones" tour at the Depot Rail Museum July 2, 5-8pm during Troutdale's First Friday event.

Take a stroll through Harlow Park. Our garden crew has diligently tended to the many demands of keeping the park beautiful. Thanks to our skillful volunteers - Julia Warner, Bettianne Goetz, Erin Janssens, Marilee Thompson, Margaret Rice, Bev Knight.

Did you know that we have newsletters dating back to 1971? Kelly Broomall was looking for a "task" during the pandemic winter months. He was given the job to organize and scan the non-digitized copies of the newsletter. No big deal, right? That is what he thought. Kelly is very meticulous. He is making sure every newsletter is in order with all the pages legible. He searches for the best copy available scouring two sets of binders where the numerous hard copies have been kept these past 50 years. Once he is satisfied with the results, the digitized newsletters will be available on our website. Currently the newsletters are available online back to 2003. Here's the link https://www.troutdalehistory.org/other-links.

When slides were a popular choice for developing film, the City of Troutdale donated several boxes of them to us once they no longer needed them. These boxes of slides have been on the "to do" list for our photo curator Julie Stewart for many years. Adding photos to our database takes some time and expertise, but when you are working with slides from the mid 1970s, you've entered another dimension of the process. Identification, specifically the location of the images has been tricky. Troutdale has changed a lot since these images were taken. By chance Greg Handy stopped by while Julie was trying to identify a set of 30+ images. Greg has lived here his entire life and could identify all of them.
Remembering Ginger
by Sharon Nesbit

Mary Virginia "Ginger" Harlow Allen b. May 1, 1930; d. May 9, 2021

Ginger Harlow Allen, died May 9, Mother’s Day, just after her 91st birthday. It took a long time for old age to catch up with her and it was my privilege to know her as we gathered history for the Harlow House. In Ginger, we were presented with an excellent family historian, who delivered material we would otherwise never have known about the people who lived in the Harlow House. Her father, Sam Harlow, was the grandson of Captain John Harlow who founded Troutdale. A third generation Oregonian, Ginger was born May 1, 1930, at what is now Good Samaritan hospital, weighing in at six pounds five ounces.

Here is some of her story as she wrote it: “I was a miracle baby. Up until seven weeks before I was born, I was thought to be an ovarian cyst. My parents (Sam and Faye Parsons Harlow) married in 1926, and after two years of marriage when mother failed to conceive, she consulted their family physician. By the medical criteria of the day, he declared she was unable to bear children. No one was more surprised about mother’s pregnancy and impending delivery than Dr. Short, the physician who had made the prognosis.” (Dr. Short lived in the home still standing just north of the Harlow House.)

“When I was ten days old I was carried home to my grandmother’s home in Troutdale.” Ginger’s grandmother was Mary McNeel Parsons. Mary Parsons was a widow, her husband, Newt, the only known death in Troutdale in the Spanish Influenza pandemic in 1919. Curiously Mary’s daughter, Faye, would also be a young widow when Sam Harlow died at age 31 in 1936. Ginger, whose real name was Mary Virginia, and her sister Bonita (Bonnie), lived at their grandmother’s house in Troutdale while Faye Parsons built a career to support her children. They were frequent visitors at the Harlow House, home of their paternal grandmother, Laura Harlow. It is said that Lee Evans, who would later live in the Harlow House, gave Ginger her nickname because she was “full of some kind of spice.”

In 1941 Faye Harlow was making enough money to rent an apartment for herself and her girls in Portland. As their mother’s career improved, they would follow her to live in Seattle. Ginger started at Troutdale School in 1936. In 1948 she graduated from Jefferson High School in Portland and soon after married her husband “Chuck” Allen in 1950. Together they raised three children, Tom, Terri, and Tami.

Ginger would see to it that the Harlow artifacts, Capt. Harlow’s telescope and many other items came to the Harlow House. She delighted in Memorial Day observances when she came back to Troutdale to decorate the family graves and she was a frequent visitor and longtime member of the Troutdale Historical Society. Her family suggests donations to the Troutdale Historical Society.

She leaves her sister, three children, five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Her favorite quote was, “Well behaved women seldom make history.” In retirement she and Chuck, who predeceased her, moved to the Oregon Coast to Tierra Del Mar. She filled her garage with family research, tracing her lineage back to the Mayflower and then to the 10th century always sharing tidbits and photos with the Troutdale Historical Society.

Warts and All, a book she published about her uncle Clarence Parsons is available for sale at the Barn Exhibit Hall gift shop and online at our website troutdalehistory.org.
Jeanne Stanton Pulliam, former resident of Corbett and Gresham, U.S. Navy Veteran, retired schoolteacher died at age 99, March 16. She graduated from Grant High School, was a U.S. Navy Wave from 1943 to 1946. She became a teacher in Clackamas and Multnomah counties (one year keeping a boa constrictor in her classroom) retiring in 1977. She married Charles Pulliam, also a U.S. Navy vet, on August 28, 1947, a day later than planned because the fishing season was extended and he couldn’t make it on the designated day. He was a teacher at Franklin High School. The Pulliams had three children and bought 28 acres off Seidl Road where they raised them along with chickens, sheep and a burro who insisted on eating the buttons off clothing. Later they moved to Gresham. Charles Pulliam died in 1986. Jeanne belonged to a dizzying list of organizations and associations, including every historical society in East Multnomah County. She told The Outlook in 1977 that when she retired from teaching she made it her goal to upgrade the role of women in the world. “If we get all the women in the world together, we can make critical changes in society,” she said. She gave each of her eight grandchildren the trip of their choice anywhere in the world traveling with them. At the end of her travels, she covered every continent except Antarctica. She is survived by daughters Deborah Scott of Oregon City, Kathleen Jordan of Carson City, NV, and Karl Pulliam of Anchorage, Alaska.

Volunteer Tea - Back Together Again

As we prepare to reopen our museums on July 3 & 4, we wanted to catch up with some dear friends. The lure of tea and cookies brought our museum volunteer docents to the Harlow House. It was like meeting long lost friends and it felt like the past 15 months hadn’t happened. We celebrated several June birthdays, introduced them to the new exhibit of WWII nurses uniforms shown at the Harlow House, the new exhibits at the Barn Exhibit Hall, and our new point of sale system.

We also had the opportunity to say farewell to Alex Epps, our administrative assistant. She has been offered a job in Texas and will be leaving us soon. Alex began working for THS in November 2019. If you follow us on Facebook or Instagram, it was Alex who did the research and posted the Troutdale history trivia questions. She also brought our point of sale system and our website up to date. We are now much more efficient in keeping track of gift store and our online store sales. We wish her the very best in Texas and she will be missed at THS.
Are you interested in becoming a Business or Corporate Sponsor? Visit our online store troutdalehistory.org, fill out the form from this newsletter, or call 503-661-2164 for more information. The logo of our Business and Corporate Sponsors are linked to their website through our website and digital ByGone Times quarterly newsletter. We proudly display the logos at all our events.

Support our local history and become a Business or Corporate Sponsor!
Non Profit Presorted Standard Mail Troutdale, OR Permit #5

Mail Address: 219 E Historic Columbia River Hwy.
Office Location: 732 E Historic Columbia River Hwy.
Phone: 503-661-2164
Email: info@troutdalehistory.org
Website: www.troutdalehistory.org

Mission Statement

To gather, preserve and make available material relating to the history of the Troutdale Historical Society. Troutdale Historical Society. Troutdale Historical Society.

Preserving The Past, Embracing The Future

Membership includes free entry to all our museums, 10% off Barn Store gift shop merchandise, quarterly newsletters by mail or email, and $10 off membership for the Oregon Historical Society.

☐ $20 Individual Membership
☐ $30 Family Membership
☐ $100 Lovers Oak Club
☐ $200 Lovers Oak Club ~ Family
☐ $250 Business Sponsor (includes interactive link of your logo on THS website and online newsletter)
☐ $500 Corporate Sponsor
☐ $1000 Captain's Circle ~ Lifetime

*$15 Gift Membership given by ____________________________

(Current Member Name)

Membership Dues Amount: $__________________
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☐ General Operating Fund
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Payment: ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card

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(Visa, Master Card, Discovery ONLY)
Exp. Date:________ CVV #________

Mail this form to:
Troutdale Historical Society
219 E Historic Columbia River Hwy
Troutdale, OR 97060

Thank you for your support!

*Current Members can give an Individual Membership to a friend or family member for only $15 for the first year.

Edgefield History Night

The last Tuesday of every month (except December) the Troutdale Historical Society co-sponsors a speaker at McMenamins Edgefield Blackberry Hall, 6:30pm (doors at 5:00 p.m.) Free for all ages. Food and drink are available for purchase.

Questions? Contact THS Office
Phone: 503-661-2164
Email: troutdalehistory@gmail.com
Website: troutdalehistory.org

Donations are tax deductible.
THS is a 501 (C)3 non-profit organization.
Federal Tax ID #93-0738777.

POSTPONED

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