

BYGONE TIMES

A Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

January, 1999

Sharon Nesbit, Editor, 665-0423

On January 17:

Zimmerman House, a historical park

On Jan. 17, at 2 p.m. in Troutdale City Hall, our speakers will be the leaders of the Friends of the Zimmerman House, Ted Welty, new director of the group, and Dodi Davies, chairwoman.

These two preservationists have the pleasure of almost daily access to one of East Multnomah County's most beautiful historic houses. Even better, it is their job to translate the material they find inside into a story of life on the Columbia Slough.

The Zimmerman House has been described as a 115-year time capsule of a single family. One worker on Gresham's parks committee describes the remarkable collection of hand crafts, travel brochures, daily correspondence, and other items in the house as the "history of the every day."

The Queen Anne home at Northeast 171st and Sandy Boulevard will be a City of Gresham historical, or heritage park. Work is underway now on a master plan.

Deb Cook headed for Missouri; search begins for director

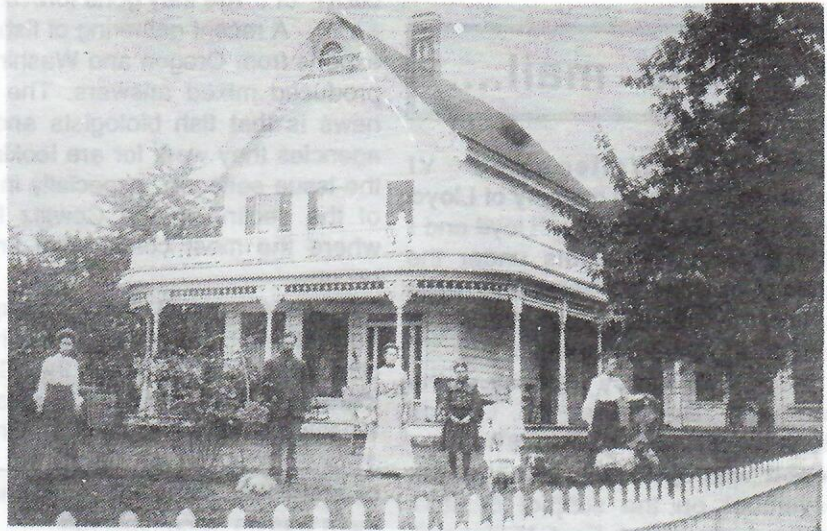
Though we wish she'd stay, Deb Cook and her family, husband Bob, and son James, sold their home over the holiday and will move to Missouri in mid- to late March.

Help Wanted: Part-time Director for Troutdale Historical Society.

Deb's fine work directing our society is matched by her enthusiasm for preservation and history. She'll be tough to replace, but we hope to find someone for a half-time job of about 20 hours a week so Deb can do training before she leaves.

Our directors usually come from our own ranks of talented members. If you know someone seeking a part-time job in the historical field, please have them telephone the Harlow House, 661-2164, and leave a message.

The Zimmerman House, Circa 1905
at 171st at Sandy Boulevard
Left to Right: Olive Hope, George, Jessie May,
Mabel June, Isobel Faith and Jessie Zimmerman



Since the death of Isobel Zimmerman, the last immediate member of the Zimmerman family, the group founded by the late Dick Jones and Sharon Nesbit, among others, has explored the story of the home and the family.

One part of that treasure, the Zimmerman House valentines, is on display now at the Harlow House.

CALENDAR

Meetings

Sunday, Jan. 17, 2 p.m.

Story of the Zimmerman House

Troutdale City Hall
From Ted Welty & Dodi Davies,
Friends of the Zimmerman House

Sunday, Feb. 14, 2 p.m.

Thirty-first Anniversary

Commercialism on the Columbia River Highway

Troutdale City Hall
Historic photos of roadhouses, restaurants and gas stations on the Historic Columbia River Highway from Steve Lehl and Chuck Rollins, Crown Point Country Historical Society.

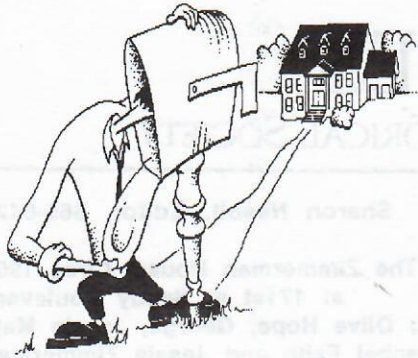
Board of Directors

Wednesday, Jan. 6, 7 p.m.

In the barn. All members welcome

Wednesday, Feb. 3, 7 p.m.

In the barn. All members welcome



In the mail....

From **Walter and Vi Nasmyth**, a card in memory of **Lloyd Snell**, who died recently: "Lloyd and I played harmonica duets under the tutelage of Helen Fehrenbacher while in the 4th, 5th and 6th grades at Troutdale," remembers Walter.

From **Nancy Hersey** of the Son and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers, a thank you to **Sharon Nesbit** who spoke the group in late November on the subject of little-known facts about East Multnomah County history.

From **Val Lantz**, a suggestion to apply for a grant to the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon for replanting and landscaping of our "new" Lover's Oak. Our historical society symbol, the Lover's Oak that once grew down by the Troutdale airport, blew over in 1962. At the suggest of John Nasmyth, among others, Bob Strebin got an oak sapling, planted it at his place, and has been training the new oak into the same S-shape.

Rebecca Beachell is a local free-lance writer who balances her time in writing computer manuals by doing sketches of local historical sites. One of her sketches will be used on our May Day Tea and Tour invitation to Forest Hall. Other are found at Sweetbrier Farm, the home of **David Ripma**.

Treasures of Oregon, a mobile van of some of the best of the Oregon Historical Society's artifacts, comes to Troutdale April 30 and May 1.

Smelt larvae found in Sandy in 1998

Recent stories in The Oregonian and Gresham Outlook indicate that, perhaps for the first time, fisheries experts are looking at the lack of smelt in the Columbia main stem and considering measures to protect smelt runs.

The first question asked by most visitors to our SMELT RUN! exhibit is, "When will the smelt come back?" or, "Are they gone forever."

A recent gathering of fisheries experts from Oregon and Washington produced mixed answers. The best news is that fish biologists and the agencies they work for are looking at the issue seriously, especially in light of the decline in the Cowlitz River where the most commercial impact occurs.

As a result, fisheries experts now know that even though an obvious run did not occur, the Grays, Kalama and Lewis rivers in Washington and the Sandy in Oregon all revealed smelt larvae, the offspring of spawning smelt in 1998, though there was no discernible run.

There is talk in Washington of placing smelt on the threatened species list.

The smelt ran last in in the Sandy in 1988.

Treasurer's report

by Penny Balch



Operating Fund	\$ 10,793.77
Barn account	6,800.00
Director's Fund	32.00
Capital Imp. Fund	7,346.40
Endowment Fund	35,486.12

Barnstorm group begins time line

With the hope of having an illustrated time line of Troutdale history up on the south interior wall of the barn by Ice Cream Social, 1999, the barnstorm committee renewed work on the project in December.

Though another \$3,000 is still needed for the project, Bob Strebin, chairman, called a meeting with designer Tommy Griffin of Presentation Design. Griffin instructed the group on how to select pictures to illustrate historical milepost in the time line and said he will be ready to begin design work in March.

Further, the committee discussed possibilities with Griffin for a special exhibit during the bicentennial celebration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. To begin work, we have received a grant of \$1,200 from the City of Troutdale.

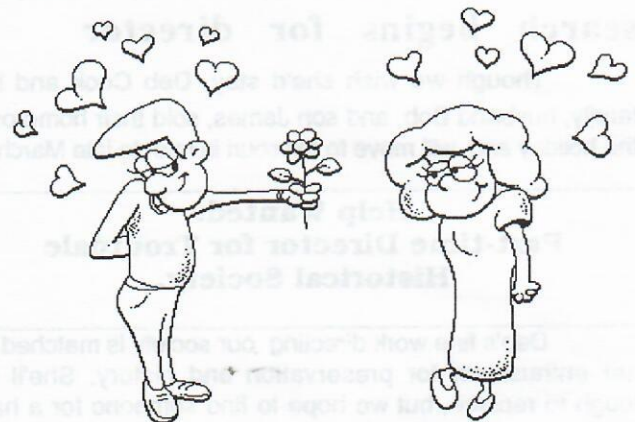
Senior Valentine

Feb. 11
1-4 p.m.

Persimmon
Country
Club
Banquet Hall

Tickets of \$11.50
a person or \$20
a couple include
buffet luncheon and Burgie
Crandall's "Let's Dance Band."
(A Table of 8, \$10 per person)

Sweetheart Ball

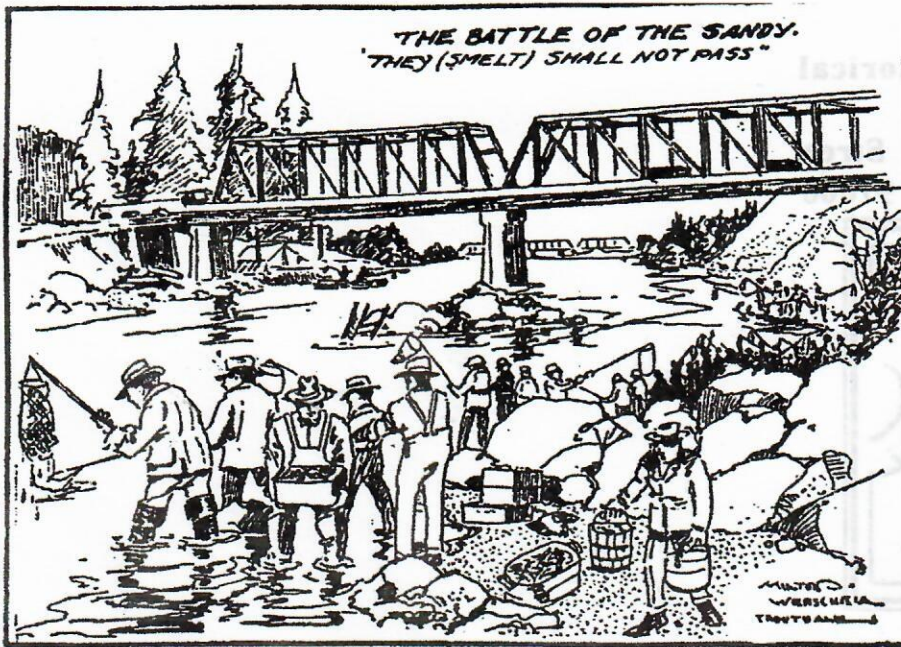


Purchase tickets at Troutdale
or Gresham city halls

Casualties High At Troutdale

Henry's Army Established Commissary at Milt Fox's Store; Attackers Over Top

From the Portland Telegram, April 5, 1923



KIRBY SMELT- BEFORE I LEFT THE OCEAN, MY FATHER TOLD US TO BE CAREFUL WHEN WE GOT TO THE SANDY RIVER BRIDGE OR WE WERE LIABLE TO FIND OURSELVES IN A BIRD CAGE WITH THE CANARIES



THE PARADE OF THE SMELT



NEW DEVELOPMENTS on the Troutdale front this morning, as reported from Milt Fox's general store, were: The main body of smelt appear to have reached Troutdale and are now occupying a central position in the Sandy River.

A flank offensive along the left bank of the Sandy has been cut down by the report from the right bank that deeper water and more smelt have been encountered there.

Bulletin--At 10:10 a.m. the smelt crossed to the left bank and the fishing army trooped across the bridge and took up positions on the sand flats, abandoning rock point. The strength and resistance of the smelt is about average, reconnaissance reports show.

Reinforcement for both the smelt and the fishing army are arriving hourly and minutely.

Business is good in Troutdale

No casualties of the shore forces have been reported, but the smelt casualties at noon had reached 987,654,321,234,567,890.

Corbett's Mershon offers new books

Clarence Mershon has written two history books the Corbett area. Book One, "Corbett Now and Columbian Then," is about students of Columbian (now Corbett) High School from 1914 to the present with information from yearbooks, past issues of the school paper and data obtained in interviews.

Book Two, not yet titled, is a supplement to information collected and compiled earlier on the area's pioneer family by Bea Graff. It concentrates on the years after World War I and through World War II and into the 1950s.

The books are available from Mershon at \$20 each. They can be mail ordered through the East Multnomah County Pioneer Association, Dorothy Larson, 30041 Woodard Road, Troutdale, OR 97060, Telephone 695-5650. Make your checks out to the association.

Save Feb. 14 for more from Corbett

Don't miss our annual meeting, Feb. 14, Sunday, at 2 p.m., when Steve Lehl and Chuck Rollins bring their slide show of commercial sites on the historic highway.

An unidentified group of men fell into the Sandy some time this morning, but deputy sheriffs so far have been unable to find the still.

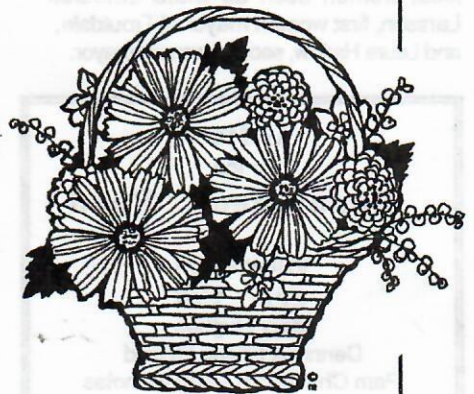
On of the first deliveries of smelt was made at the back door this morning at 7:15 by Willie, the neighbor's boy, who let his sister bring over a scrub bucket full.

Shock troops are reported massing at the mouth of the Sandy River awaiting reports from the upper Sandy and will be brought up later tonight.

This article is reprinted from *Windows on the Past*, the quarterly newsletter of the Crown Point Country Historical Society, PO Box 17, Bridal Veil, OR 97010. It's a darned good read and well worth the \$10 a year membership fee, if you want to sign up. Our friends at Crown Point put in a plug for our SMELT RUN! exhibit at the barn.

Tea and Tour announced for May Day at Forest Hall

Pat Brothers offered Forest Hall, the southern-style home at Bridal Veil, for this year's Tea and Tour, May 1, 1999. It will be in memory of our late director, Ellen Brothers.



The event is a fund raiser for operation of the Harlow House. If you want to be on this year's invitation list, telephone the Harlow House, 661-2164 and leave your name and address.

**Troutdale Historical
Society**
104 S.E. Kibling Street
Troutdale, OR 97060

**BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TROUTDALE, OR.
PERMIT NO. 5**



**Jan. 17, 2 p.m.
Troutdale City Hall**

**Secrets
of the Zimmerman
House**

**Sharon Nesbit
speaks at MHCC**

Historian Sharon Nesbit speaks at Mt. Hood Community College, Wednesday, Jan. 6, at 1 p.m. in the Town and Gown Room for the Women's History Program.

Her talk will be about remarkable local women such as Clara Latourell Larsson, first woman mayor of Troutdale, and Laura Harlow, second woman mayor.

**Historical society
travels on stomach**

Iced Graham Crackers

Here's the recipe you wanted from the November meeting. Want to help with cookies at an upcoming meeting? Call the Harlow House 661-2164. We need cookies for March.

- 1 1/2 sticks of margarine or butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts
- 1 cello package of graham crackers
(there are 3 such packages
in a box)

Lay contents of one cello package of graham crackers on a cookie sheet spread lightly with margarine or cooking spray. Boil margarine, sugar, vanilla and nuts. When it reaches a rolling boil, boil for three minutes, stirring. Pour over graham crackers staying one inch from edge. Spread gently with spatula and bake at 350 degrees for about 10 minutes, watching closely so the crackers don't burn. Cool a few minutes, then gently place on aluminum foil to cool completely.

Gifts
to the
Endowment Fund
Jack & Marion Burns

to the
General Fund
Lola Fellman

to the
Director's Fund
in memory of
Ellen Brothers
Mary Hughes

Gifts
to the
Endowment Fund

In memory of
Sam Cox
Mary Hughes
Dennis & Frieda Ryland
Pam Christian & Larry Nicholas

In memory of
Mary Malcom Allen
William & Lois Moller
Walter & Viola Nasmyth
Robert & Louise Dix

Work in the barn...

Mike Alderson has been donating time to install cabinets and work counters in the Dick Jones workshop. The cabinets were donated by Bill & Sharon Nesbit.

New Year's Resolution:

Call 661-2164 and offer one afternoon a month for 1999 in either the depot or Harlow House museums.