

Bygone Times



Newsletter of The Troutdale Historical Society.

FEBRUARY, 1990

EDITOR: Sharon Nesbit, 665-0423

SMELT: TO RUN OR NOT TO RUN...

Two of Troutdale's best smelt-watchers, Ted Schulte and State Sen. Glenn Otto, will talk about Sandy River smelt runs at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 18, in Troutdale City Hall.

Both Ted and Glenn lived on the Sandy for years and have done commercial smelt fishing. They are frequently called upon to guess whether or not the smelt will come this year. (If you want to do your own smelt-guessing, our record of smelt runs is printed on Page Two.)

John Nasmyth has promised to show movie film he took of a 1949 smelt run and a trip up the old Columbia River Highway. And we will have a special presentation for John, who sparked the barn fund drive with his a major contribution of more than \$7,000.

Other items on the agenda include the election of officers. The slate of candidates is: Sam Cox, president; Ted Schulte, vice president; Barbara Welsh, secretary; Marge Schmunk, treasurer; Gene Bui, Bob Sturges and Rankin Davis, board members. Nominations will be taken from the floor.

And we will celebrate the 22nd anniversary of our society with ice cream and cake. And good wishes all around.

DO PAY YOUR DUES...

If an envelope is attached to your newsletter, your dues are due. (Questions? Call Joyce Stoeckel, membership secretary, 665-0026.) Dues are \$4 a year per person or \$100 for a lifetime membership. All lifetime dues are deposited in the society's endowment fund, which is dedicated to the permanent funding of our museums.

Please mail your dues in the attached envelope or bring it to the next meeting. Prompt payment is a real help to our treasurer.

Many Troutdale Historical Society members are affiliate members of the Oregon Historical Society. Affiliate OHS members will receive a separate notice from the state society. If you want to become an affiliate member of OHS (affiliate membership offers a slight reduction in dues) call the society at 222-1741.

CALLING ON OUR COOKS...

Barbara Welsh and a committee of Jean Holman, Dorothy Sturges, Cathy Hamme and Sharon Nesbit are arranging to print new sets of historical society recipes cards.

We especially want to include some of the foods that have brought such rave reviews at our teas and other events. Will the people who baked the raspberry, strawberry and apricot breads for our home tour tea last fall please send their recipes to Barbara at 2915 S.E. Spyglass Drive, Vancouver, Wash., 98684.

FROM THE TREASURER...The year-end report from treasurer Marge Schmunk shows that we had \$1,042.13 in our endowment fund at the close of 1989; \$10,916.67 in our operating fund; and \$1,679.03 in our barn fund.

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RECORD OF SMELT RUNS IN THE SANDY RIVER
Compiled by the Troutdale Historical Society

1913 - April 8
1914 - March 24
1916 - April 4
1917 - April 21
1918 - April 2
1919 - March 29
1921 - March 29
1922 - April 11
1924 - April 28
1925 - March 26
1926 - March 14, re-entered river April 9
1927 - March 28
1928 - March 12
1929 - April 9
1930 - March 18
1932 - March 26
1934 - March 4
1936 - March 27
1940 - March 6 to 18
1941 - March 14 to 24
1942 - March 19 to April 1
1943 - March 25 to April 1
1945 - April 1 to 15
1946 - March 28 to April 8
1948 - March 27 to April 11
1949 - March 24 to April 9
1951 - April 5 to 10
1952 - April 8 To railroad bridge and out.
1953 - April 19 to 29
1954 - April 1 to 7
1956 - March 29 to April 10
1957 - March 26 to April 1
1971 - March 23 (just a few)
1974 - Feb. 26 to March 26
1975 - March 27 to April 5
1976 - March 23 to April 4
1977 - March 12 to 26
1978 - March 23 to 25 (few smelt)
1979 - March 13
1980 - March 8 to 15
1981 - March 7 (just a few)
1985 - March 9 (lower river)
1988 - April 16

From files of Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, Gresham
Outlook and records of Ted Schulte and Charles Abbott.

Amended March, 1989

RANKIN DAVIS IS MEMBER OF THE MONTH...

You may have seen Rankin Davis, retired machinist from Cascade Corporation, former Troutdale councilman and a Troutdale Historical Society board member, in the Troutdale Rail Depot. You may have seen him with a mop.

In addition to serving on the board, Rankin, 66, is responsible for the care and keeping of our depot museum. He cleans it (he even provides his own cleaning equipment) and buttons it up when it closes for the winter. Rankin is a pinch-hitter for depot hosts who need a substitute. He spent most Thursdays for about two years helping Sam Cox set up the tables and equipment at the Troutdale Bingo game, which the society jointly sponsors.

His wife, Sue, is one of the society's best cookie bakers.

Rankin is eager to finish our barn museum. A former farm boy from Nebraska, he came to Oregon at age 14 with his family, eight people in a 1928 Buick. He worked for local farmers and understands the business of farming. It is important, he says, to preserve that heritage for the school children who will visit our barn museum.

It was Rankin who suggested last year's Century Club donations of \$100 each to the barn museum. That fund drive resulted in 46 gifts amounting to \$4,600 for barn construction.

Thank you, Rankin.

ABOUT THE DEPOT...

Because the volunteer host program at the Harlow House works so well, we will do the same thing this year at the Troutdale Rail Depot, open 1 to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, May through September.

The Harlow House is staffed by a crew of volunteers who each give one day a month. To do the same at the depot, we need eight volunteers with one day a month to give. (Any extra days are handled by people such as Rankin Davis.) We must be honest and admit that hosting at the depot is not all a bucket of roses. There is no restroom so volunteers should have three hours of lasting power or host in pairs. Sometimes it can get warm, though we have a fan for hot summer days. But the rewards are good. The historical society's library and photo files are kept there so the browsing opportunities are excellent. And it is great fun to greet visitors coming through town.

If you can help one day a month on a regular basis give Donna Hawkins a call at 663-5994.

SEEKING CORPORATE DONORS...

In order to get our barn finished, we ask for help from corporations. For instance, Burns Bros. has been a generous contributor - \$8,700, to help us get a roof and doors.

The board of directors is willing to call on people and ask for barn donations. If you know of a corporation that should be approached, call Sam Cox, 665-9086.

TRAVELING TO THE END OF THE OREGON TRAIL...

Gene Bui and historical society trekker Jeral Beaty will lead a trip to Oregon City on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. Mark the day on your calendar and watch our March newsletter for information on cost and how to sign up.

KEEPING OUR SHIRTS ON...

Heidi Wilson, 342 S.E. Kibling St., Troutdale, 97060, is taking on the project of designing a new historical society T-shirt with the goal of having it ready for the Troutdale picnic in July. If you have ideas for a T-shirt, jot them down and mail them to her.

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS...ROBERT BRINK, Yacolt, Wash.; ERICK TOY, Portland; KAY NOGGLE, Portland; JACK and BETTY KNIGHT, Gresham; DON ERSKINE, Portland; MARILYN OVERTON, Pendleton; LOIS MITCHELL, Troutdale; JANET RENFRO, Troutdale.

Erick Toy writes: "My wife, Mary Toy, and I had a wonderful time at the Christmas open house. Everyone was so friendly and greeted us with such a warm welcome. It's truly a great event and wonderful project you all have dedicated your time to. Thank you all so very much."

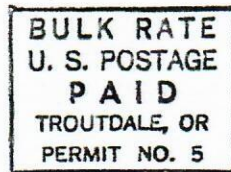
Thank you, Erick. Next year you can be on the greeting committee.

NAMEDROPPERS...Thank you to LAUREN STOECKEL and DONNA KLUEHE who volunteered to do yard work with CATHY HAMME this summer at the Harlow House...BEN WETHERILL, West River, Maryland, spent the summer of 1988 with us building our barn. He writes from college and says hello to all...The outdoor group, MAZAMAS, scheduled a hike through Troutdale and a visit to the Harlow House, Jan. 20...ALEX JONES gave a donation in memory of the late ACIL WRIGHT...HARRY and SYLVIA FOWLER donated to the barn fund...LOLA LUMSDEN gave a leather bound book she received as a child that bears the signatures of early-day Troutdale residents...and ERNIE CEREGHINO donated a sack of celery planting tools he found in his barn. Says he never throws anything away.

TO MARK THE 100TH YEAR...

In reading our history, Heidi Wilson observes that Feb. 26, 1990, is the 100th anniversary of Troutdale's beginnings. On that day in 1890 Celestia Harlow filed the plat for the 16 square blocks that became downtown Troutdale. To mark the day, we invite new members, or those who just want to catch up on local history, to meet at the Harlow House at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 26, for a talk by Sharon Nesbit on Troutdale's beginnings.

TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
104 S.E. KIBLING ST.
TROUTDALE, ORE. 97060



TALKING ABOUT SMELT
FEB. 18
2 P.M.
TROUTDALE CITY HALL