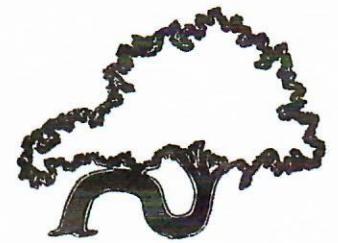


Bygone Times

A Newsletter of The Troutdale Historical Society.



JANUARY, 1992

EDITOR SHARON NESBIT, 665-0423

A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AT TROUTDALE SCHOOL....

100 YEARS - JAN. 12 - 2 P.M.

Remember school days when you had to stand up front and recite? Those days will return when we gather at Troutdale Elementary School, 648 S.E. Harlow St, to observe 100 years of schools at that site on Sunday, Jan. 12 at 2 p.m. The meeting will likely be held in the cafeteria.

The Troutdale P.T.A., wants to produce a video in honor of the 100-year mark and will record our reminiscences of Troutdale School days in both the present school and the 1892 structure. This will be a wonderful time to bring a favorite school picture and be prepared to "recite" your history when "teacher" calls on you.

The second Troutdale school was built on the hilltop at Troutdale in 1892. In recognition of this milestone we will present the school with one of our historical markers.

Afterward we will visit over coffee offered by the P.T.A. and cookies provided by Vera Strebin and Florence Baker.

BEGINNING A NEW YEAR...

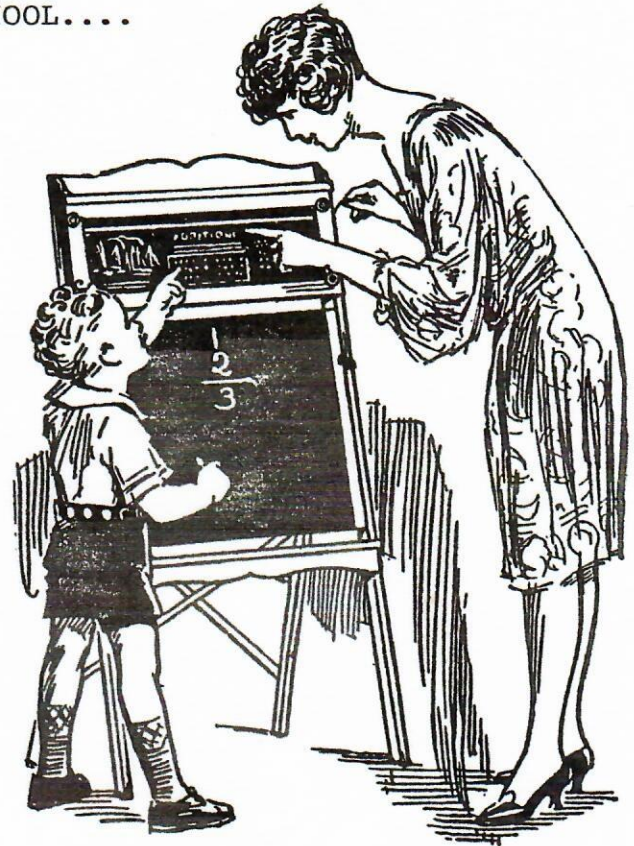
Our historical society year runs from February to February with the result that we use January to get a head start on the process.

Prior to our program at Troutdale school, Jan. 12, we will have a brief business meeting. One of the chief items will be the first nominations for our February elections. If you are interested in serving as an officer or on the board, please contact either Sharon Nesbit or Sam Cox, 665-9086, and indicate your interest.

About our dues. Annual dues are payable in February. However, many members took advantage of a donation/dues envelope last fall to pay 1992 dues. If you owe 1992 dues you will find a donation/dues envelope attached to your February newsletter. If not, don't worry about it, you are paid in full.

Note: See story on Page Two about a new dues structure.

And 1992 meetings and events to look forward to: Annual Meeting, 2 p.m., Feb. 16, Troutdale City Hall, with a reception at Sweet Briar Farm; A Tour of Menucha, 1 to 3 p.m., March 15; Those Murphy Girls, live interview, 7:30 p.m., Monday, April 20, Troutdale City Hall; film "A Pioneer Woman" 3 p.m. Sunday, May 17, Sweet Hall.



WANT TO BE PART OF THE DIRECTOR'S CLUB?...

At our annual Board of Trustees meeting where we set goals for our society, it was agreed that our organization has two principal aims. First, to complete our museum barn. And second, to hire a paid director to oversee day-to-day business for the society. We have known for sometime that when our barn museum opens for business we must have paid staff in order to do a quality job.

But how to find the money to pay a salary? Board Member Bob Sturges has suggested increasing dues substantially to fund our needs, including paying for staff. But not all of us can afford a big hike in dues, nor do we wish to lose valuable members for financial reasons. Others, however, may have the money to spare and the interest in seeing our society move ahead.

For that reason, the board has approved a new voluntary dues fee called The Director's Club...\$50 a person, \$75 a couple. The money generated from such dues will go to pay costs of a paid, part-time director for our society. Based on a salary rate of a modest \$25 for a half day, a single Director's Club membership would buy two day's of work, a couple membership would pay for three days.

If we started small with a four-day work week--208 half-days a year--it would take the dues of 104 Director's Club single memberships to pay the salary cost, or 69 couple memberships.

We would expect a paid director to host at the Harlow House, conduct day-to-day business, maintain records, prepare for board and regular meetings, coordinate volunteers and either write or arrange for the writing of grants. In no way can a director do all the work of our society, but such a person working with our officers and board will provide the management that makes it easier for the rest of us to volunteer. Further, a director should contribute efforts that will substantially increase our fund-raising abilities.

So what do you gain from being part of a Director's Club? Comfort in knowing that our society is moving ahead and will continue to progress. And perhaps, as Marge Schmunk suggests, a special lapel pin recognizing your contributions.

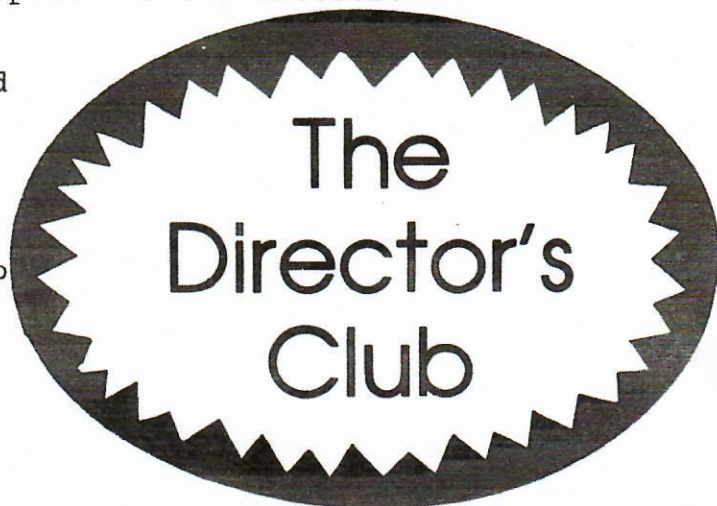
And what happens to Sharon Nesbit, present volunteer director of the society? She promises to get back to the business of being historian, gathering material and writing a book of city history, as well as continuing in other volunteer activities.

When your dues envelope comes in February, consider being part of the Director's Club investing in a solid foundation for this society's future. If you have already paid your dues and wish to be in the Director's Club, just send a check less the amount already paid.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS...

WILLIAM B. SULLIVAN, Portland, and MARGARET MURNANE, Corbett, are new members of our society.

FAYE HARLOW has moved. Her new address: 1400 NE 2nd Ave., #907, Portland, OR, 97232. She writes: "I think about Troutdale a great deal, the older I get I find my thoughts going back to the lovely simple life we had in my growing up years there...I wish the best to people so dedicated and hardworking that belong to the Troutdale Historical Society."



THE STORY OF INDIAN JOHN

His name was John. Or that was the name white men called him. He was one of the last Indians to live along the Columbia and Sandy Rivers. His lifetime is said to have stretched from the arrival of Lewis and Clark to death in a pauper's grave at the county poor farm in Portland.

Hundreds of East Multnomah County people knew him, including Geneva Johnson at Corbett. Local residents housed, fed and employed the man they called "a good Indian." But not one thought to sit down and write his full story or record his priceless knowledge of Native American history.

John called himself "the last chief of the Multnomahs." Pieces of his life are recorded in scrapbooks kept by settlers who knew him.

The story most pioneers remember best occurred in the frightening days of the Cascade Locks Indian uprising in 1855-56. John personally warned white friends from Corbett to Parkrose of the danger.

John's origins are wrapped in local myth, but he was said to have a frying pan given his father by Lewis and Clark. A legend persists that he was the only survivor of an Indian encampment buried in a landslide at the site of Lewis and Clark State Park. Other accounts mention a sister, Mrs. Johnson, married to a Hudsons Bay Company worker. Others say John's daughter, Mary, married a man named Tibbetts. Tibbetts children attended Troutdale school in the early 1900s.

The late Margaret Hartley Sales, Wilkes, once wrote The Outlook about John; "In 1863 my father leased the Patrick Hogan farm and Indian John with his sixth wife and little daughter lived in the woods there...

"That summer Indian John's wife got sick from a bad sore throat and died. He wrapped her in blankets, then put her on a platform in the woods. Then in a short time his little girl died too. He grieved so for her he could not give her up. My father told him he would have to tell the soldiers if he didn't do something about burying her. So Indian John put her body in a boat and went to Memaloos Island in the Columbia River where he fixed her a grave in the sand."

John later purchased a 16-year-old bride who was "repossessed" by her mother six months later because John lacked the money to pay for a wife. In his old age, histories say, another woman got away with all but \$10 of his life savings.

The late Cora Symes Stark remembered John's pride in his last home on the Jacob Zimmerman farm near Northeast 171st and Sandy Boulevard: "His cabin, built by local settlers, had a window which he called a winder."

John tanned hides, sold fish, did some hunting and hoed potatoes to make a living. When settlers gave him clothes, he put the new things on first and then topped off the ensemble with his old clothes. When East Winds blew he used the outdoorsman's trick of covering himself with warm ashes.

Finally, John grew so old in his little cabin on the Zimmerman farm that neighbors feared he would die alone there. George Zimmerman, father of our member Isobel Zimmerman, and Hiram Stone, then a county commissioner, arranged for John to go to the county poor farm that was then in Portland. John died there, buried in a pauper's grave. Oregon Historical Society accounts give his death date as 1893.

You can see a picture of John at his house on the Zimmerman farm in the Harlow House museum in the upstairs room where we keep our Indian and pioneer artifacts. The Harlow House is open Saturdays and Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m.

ABOUT THE WEATHER...

If driving conditions are hazardous, our winter meetings are automatically cancelled. If you have questions telephone Sam Cox, 665-9086, or Sharon Nesbit, 665-0423.

MORE NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS...

MALCOM and VIRGINIA BOSLAR, our members in Bend, drove 40 miles this year looking for juniper with berries to send for Harlow House decorating. "Couldn't find any, came home and trimmed my trees--five years of drought has taken its toll," wrote Boslar, sending along a fragrant box of juniper...MIKE and CATHY HAMME made a donation to the barn museum...A gift to the barn museum in memory of Bill Baker was received from BONNIE IRWIN...Wanda Ferguson, wife of longtime member BILL FERGUSON, died in December...From HELEN ALTHAUS, Ashland: "Congratulations on your progress, especially development of the old 'poor farm' property."

NEW TO THE MUSEUM...

Cathy Hamme has been hired to work part-time bringing our cataloging system up to date. Cathy also works as a volunteer in the museum.

Florence Baker has given us a rare donation, her father's wedding shirt and tie. Men's clothing is hard to find.

Thanks to FLORENCE BAKER, CATHY HAMME, DOROTHY STURGES, JEAN HOLMAN, SANTA TED SCHULTE, SHARON NESBIT, JACK and ROBERT BURNS, and MARY HUGHES for running the Harlow House during the Christmas open house.

A special thanks to DONNA KLUEHE for the exhibits, to GEORGE and VIRGINIA PERRY for the antique trains (which can be seen through February) and to DICK JONES and SAM COX who helped decorate.

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

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
AT TROUTDALE SCHOOL
JANUARY 12, 2 P.M.

BULK RATE
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