

Bygone Times

A Newsletter of The Troutdale Historical Society.



NOVEMBER, 1991

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THE HISTORY OF BRIDAL VEIL, NOVEMBER 18...



This photo of the Bridal Veil Hotel is a reminder of Troutdale's ties to the lumber mill town in the Columbia River Gorge. One of the first pictures to come to our historical collection more than 20 years ago, it was given to us by Ray Moore, whose father built this hotel-boarding house for mill workers at Bridal Veil.

The boarding house no longer stands, but what is left of Bridal Veil is threatened with demolition. Our neighbors from the Crown Point Country Historical Society who are trying to preserve the community's heritage, will present us with their fine historical program on Bridal Veil at 7:30 p.m., Monday night, Nov. 18, in the Troutdale City Hall.

President Steve Lehl and Laurel Slater will exhibit their photo collections of Bridal Veil. They have also arranged for Bill Carr, U.S. Forest Service historian, to give his slide and narrative program on the history of Bridal Veil.

Join us for a fascinating story of life in a mill town in the Columbia River Gorge. Refreshments will follow the meeting.

MUSEUM HOURS...

Our historical museum, Harlow House, is open Saturdays and Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m., through the winter months. Our depot museum is closed. Admission is always free to our members. Our winter hosts this year are: KATIE BARKER, CATHY HAMME, MARY HUGHES, JACK & ROBERTA BURNS,

CIRCLE SKIRTS AND PINAFORES...

Our Oct. 19 potluck dinner with its emphasis on school and school clothes revived some wonderful memories.

Dick Jones recalled the brogues that high school boys wore in pre-World War II days, the ones with toes that turned up like tugboats and so many cleats on the soles that you could slide for miles down the school halls. There was talk of circle skirts, sloppy Joe sweaters, Armishaw shoes and high button shoes.

John Nasmyth remembered that his sister went to school in high button shoes and a long dress with flour sack bloomers underneath.

"When the girls bent over," he said, "it read Crown Flour on their behinds." Nasmyth added that those were the days when "Our pornography was the National Geographic and the Sears Roebuck catalog."

As a parallel, Heidi Wilson recalled her 1970s mini-skirts and her father's test of their length. "My dad made me raise my arms to see if my fanny showed," she said.

Marge Smith, who taught school 45 years, and began at Troutdale in 1959, displayed her famous teacher's smock and the contents of its pockets, including that old favorite, the whistle.

Attending for the first time were the three Bohall sisters, Donna Bohall Holman, Verna Bohall Downen, and Betty Bohall. Their folks, Selby and Ila Bohall, operated a Mobile Station on Sandy Boulevard near the present dog pound.

OUR WINTERING-IN WORK DAY...

People bent to their tasks at our Harlow House and barn work day on Oct. 19. BILL STONE nailed more batts on the barn. BOB STREBIN AND BARBARA WELSH painted. EVELYN JACOBSON washed the windows and ran the weed eater over the wild flower bed. CLOVER NASMYTH defrosted the refrigerator. HERB NASMYTH tackled blackberries. SAM COX, SHARON NESBIT, HEIDI WILSON and LAUREN STOECKEL cleaned and edged flower beds and planted pansies donated by KAS and HELEN TAMURA. CATHY HAMME planted daffodils in the flower bed of the late Alex Jones. Alex had ordered the bulbs before his death. MISSY and ANGIE WILSON and their friend, APRIL, carted loads to the compost heap. CHARLES BISHOP dismantled his popular wagon exhibit to make way for a new winter exhibit. DICK JONES did all the preparation, readied the tools and kept us all on task.

IN MEMORY OF BILL BAKER...

Bill Baker, longtime Troutdale Road farmer and a devoted member of this society, died Oct. 13 at the age of 69.

Our barn project was a favorite of his. He and his wife, Florence, made contributions to the barn. When they went out for a drive, he liked to come by the Harlow House and just sit and look the barn, Florence says. She and her son, Bob, suggested contributions to the barn fund as a memorial.

Gifts have been received from: BETTY THOMPSON, ALFRED & MADELINE ANDERSON, BUD & KAY PHINNEY, LAURA VAN ATTA, PAMELA & OLAF OJA, ELLIOTT & JEAN SWEETLAND, WANDA CLEMENT, J.B. SANDIFORTH, KAREN COUZENS, JESSIE SANDIFORTH, JENNIE WREN FEA, DONNA BURLINGAME, GLADYS REED, LOLA LUMSDEN, LENORE & DONALD THOMAS AND BILL & SHARON STREBIN.



REAPING PROFITS FROM HARVEST FAIRE...

Treasurer Marge Schmunk reports that the profits from Harvest Faire, all destined to go to the barn, amount to \$3,181.20.

Some other volunteers whose names didn't make it on our list: HARRY FOWLER, FRANK DRIVER, CHARLES BISHOP, PEGGY GORCIAK, STEWART HARVEY and BRYAN HARVEY.

POWER STATION OPEN...

McMenamins' Pubs and Breweries has opened its newest pub, restaurant and theater in the old Power Station at the Multnomah County Farm. Much in the building honors the memory of those who lived at Edgefield. Our society has helped to provide historic photos and aided in the research on the building.

We remember, of course, the four-year fight to prevent Multnomah County from demolishing the buildings at Edgefield so all of us have a stake in this building.

The Power Station is open all day and the menu includes breakfast. Make it a point to stop and say hello.

TREASURER'S REPORT...

Our treasury held these amounts on the last day of September.

Endowment fund.....	\$ 3,876.34
Operating fund.....	15,695.35
Dedicated barn funds.....	583.69
Barn building fund.....	2,277.18

TOTAL.....	22,432.56

CHRISTMAS IS COMING...

Plans are afoot for our Harlow House Christmas celebration which takes place Saturday afternoon, Dec. 14.

We will trim a Christmas tree with stuffed cat ornaments made by Letty Fowell of Wood Village. But Donna Kluehe is working on another surprise upstairs where she will recreate a 1950s-60s Christmas, aluminum Christmas tree and all.

If you have a circular poodle skirt or some other item from that era that you could loan for this exhibit, please call Donna at 760-8428.

KEEP THESE DATES IN MIND...

Our meeting schedule for the 1991-1992 season is already filling up. Jot these dates down.

Jan. 12, 2 p.m. - Presentation of a historical plaque to the Troutdale Elementary School recognizing 100 years at its location.

Feb. 16, 2 p.m. - Our 24th anniversary, election of officers, and a special tour of the Sweet Briar Farm home of David Ripma.

Mar. 15, 1 p.m. - A field trip to Menucha to visit the former home of Governor Julius Meier.

OUR WISH LIST...

A used computer for the Harlow House office...A landscaping service willing to donate a once-a-month sprucing up of the Harlow House grounds...A person with a computer who would like to be our photo librarian...A toy electric train to borrow to circle our Harlow House Christmas tree.

TROUTDALE BINGO, in which this society is a partner, IS EVERY THURSDAY EVENING BEGINNING AT 6:45 P.M. IN THE GREAT HALL AT CITY PARK.

NAMEDROPPERS...Welcome to new members, FRANK GRANDE and MARGARET GRIMM...Many thanks to LEE LARSON of SCHOOL BUS SERVICES who provided a bus for our volunteer trek on Oct. 12 to Vancouver and the Pomeroy Living History Farm, and to CINDY HAMMOND, who arranged our tour at the Pomeroy farm...Condolences to RUTH BRYAN on the death of her husband, WARREN BRYAN, one of our Troutdale Trekkers...Thank you to JOAN BENNER who is arranging to donate items to us from the old Fairview Farms...Our profit from Harvest Faire is due in substantial part to donations made by TAD'S CHICKEN N' DUMPLINS and the TROUTDALE LIONESS. Say thanks to those folks when you get a chance...ROY MEGER purchased a 1923 calendar from Troutdale's FOX STORE to display in the Harlow House...KAZ & HELEN TAMURA made a gift to the society in memory of ALEX JONES.

A HISTORICAL TIDBIT...

Troutdale once had its own library. It was started shortly after the turn of the century by the Frances Fox, wife of storekeeper Aaron Fox, and her sister-in-law, Mrs. Emanuel May, whose husband was the president of the city's biggest industry, the Union Meat Company.

Joined by members of the Troutdale Womens' Club, the organizers gave entertainments and plays to raise money. Among those early entertainers were Laura Harlow and her daughter, Harriet. They would later live in the Harlow House. In another show, Clara Larsson did the cakewalk, which was new and regarded as rather daring.

The first home of the library was on the corner where the King Lam restaurant is now. The library, dependent on donated quarters, moved often. The first librarian earned \$15 a month. On April 7, 1908, Troutdale's library became a branch of the Multnomah County system.

TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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ON NOVEMBER 18:

A HISTORY OF BRIDAL VEIL

