

BYGONE TIMES

A Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

November, 1998

Editor, Sharon Nesbit, 665-0423

A visit with Edna Ellis at city hall on Nov. 15

For too long, years and miles separated Edna Bramhall Ellis from the town she calls "our beloved Troutdale." When she was in Hermiston and later, when she was tending her husband, Charles, our chief communication with Edna was through letters.

That was good, because we have a lovely written record from her, but also bad, because we never got to sit down face to face.

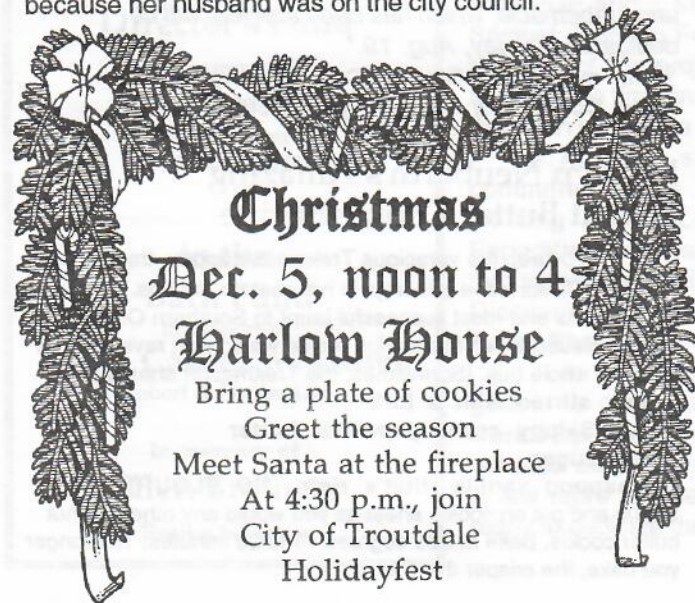
"I was born in that house (on Troutdale Road) in 1913. When my husband and I were married, our wedding took place in what in those days was called the parlor. Both my Mother and my Father died there...mother in 1939, papa in 1949,"

Edna Bramhall Ellis

Edna has since moved to Gresham. She was instrumental in helping us put some of the last bits of our smelt exhibit together, including the donation of nets she made herself. And she came during the opening of the exhibit to provide press folks with first-person interviews.

Now she is the focus of a whole afternoon, 2 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 15 in Troutdale City Hall.

Born on Troutdale Road, married in the same house, she can tell us about life growing up in Troutdale, the grand Emil Olesen house down Troutdale Road, about being a young wife and mother here, about city politics, because her husband was on the city council.



Christmas

**Dec. 5, noon to 4
Harlow House**

Bring a plate of cookies
Greet the season
Meet Santa at the fireplace
At 4:30 p.m., join
City of Troutdale
Holidayfest



CALENDAR

November / December

Events

**Sun., Nov. 15, 2 p.m.,
city hall**

An oral history interview with
Edna Ellis.

**Sat., Dec. 5, noon-4
p.m., Harlow House**

A Victorian Gingerbread
Christmas with Santa and
cookies.

Board of Directors

**Wed., Nov. 4, 7 p.m.,
barn**

**Wed., Dec. 2, 7 p.m.,
barn**

Opportunities

Wed., Dec. 2, 9 a.m., Harlow House
Decorating the Harlow House for Christmas

Harlow House

November through May, Sat. & Sun., 1 to 4 p.m.

Christmas decorations, throughout December

A gift from McMenamins

The opening of McMenamins Edgefield Pub Course in late summer resulted in a gift of \$810 to our historical society.

Golfers first tested their mettle on the 18 hole pitch-n-putt course, which rambles through the brambles on the hill above the poor farm. Then they paid \$20 each to attempt a shot from the roof of the infirmary. The player closest to the pin won \$100, the proceeds to our society.

If you haven't tried your hand at the Pub Course, it is open daily, cost is about \$18. It's a lot of fun. The course begins in what is now the distillery, up hill where the barns were, above Blackberry Hall.

Schmidt Family Trust makes barn gift

We have also received an annual \$300 gift from the J. Frank Schmidt Family Charitable Trust to our barn. The Schmidt Nursery, of course, started in Troutdale.

Treasures found in the Larch Douglass collection



Harlow Douglass in a camp on Larch Mountain.

Named after Captain John Harlow, he was said to be the first white male born in the newly-platted community of Troutdale. Harlow, and his sister, Irene, were both splendid characters, adventurous and living life at full blast. Some of his papers, as well as those of photographer Larch Douglass, were given to us by the Douglass family. Sadly, many of Larch Douglass' priceless negatives stuck to the envelopes in which they were stored. We have not found a way to salvage them. (Thanks to Ryan Gardner of The Outlook for trying.)

In the papers we found a memory of World War I written by Harlow Douglass: (...indicates missing parts)

"At the end of the first day of St. Mihiel Drive...that I was to spend the night in a town that the Germans had ...so recently that their supper was still hot and uneaten so I ate it and then started to look around and found a house full of maps. Most of the maps were very poor but after looking at the whole house full I came out with the only good one and this is it. (Map enclosed.)

The German never left a trail or foot bridge or any other thing out of this map. It was evidently their key map and beat any I ever saw in our army or in France, so I took it along and carried it the rest of the time I was in Europe.

This map, a good ornery streak, a desire to sight see, not miss any excitement, and the fact that I always said I was the best motorcycle rider as well as the most efficient and toughest man in the army made me the best courier or message carrier.

I rode the new motorcycle (solo) off of Co. A 1st US Engineers...when roads were so muddy that the man who was supposed to ride (jimmied) the engine so it would not run. I fixed it. I rode steady until the morning I left Germany to come to America.

Train, gingerbread man theme planned for holidays

The Harlow House committee, which calls itself the Lunch Bunch, because lunching is how they meet, will create scented gingerbread men ornaments for this year's Christmas decorations.

Added to that, we plan to display antique trains and have gathered some used toy trains for children to play with under the tree.

If you have an antique toy train you would like to share (it will be placed high and well out of reach) please give Christina Balsiger, 257-8606, a call.



Anyone who is interested in helping us make ginger cookie shaped ornaments -- the recipe is applesauce and cinnamon, may call Deb Cook at the Harlow House, 661-2164. We also hope to make gingerbread man doorhangers advertising the Harlow House for each business in town. Got a gift for frills and such, call Deb about that too.

From the Gresham Outlook -- Aug. 14 , 1928

"A leading feature of the Advent Christian conference to be held this year at Troutdale will be the daily vacation Bible school which will begin August 26. The camp meeting will begin tomorrow and continue over Sunday, Aug. 26. Camping privileges are open to the public and meals will be served cafeteria style. A large tabernacle, which has been erected, will be dedicated Sunday, Aug. 19."

(That makes the Sam K. Cox building in Glenn Otto Community Park 70 years old.)

Marilyn Neubarth's Amazing Peanut Butter Cookie Recipe

To keep the voracious Trekmaster happy, travelers on Troutdale Treks leave offerings in her seat on the bus. On our recent joyful and most successful jaunt to Southern Oregon, Marilyn Neubarth left this cookie recipe which won rave reviews from the whole bus. (Sometimes, the Trekmaster shares.)

1 egg, stirred with a fork

1 cup Skippy crunchy peanut butter

1 cup sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla (that's right, NO FLOUR)

Stir up and put on cookie sheet as you would any other peanut butter cookie. Bake at 325 degrees 15 to 20 minutes. The longer you bake, the crisper the cookie.

**Donations to the
Endowment Fund
honoring**

Sam K. Cox

- Ted & Lois Schulte
- Shirley Lambert
- Kenny Westmoreland
- K. Al & Betty Rose Hayes
- Sid Britton & Ruby Mathieson
- Walter & Lorraine Mackey
- Helen Otto
- Florence Baker
- Helen Althaus
- Susan Sturges Magre & family
- Len Otto
- Jean Holman
- Frieda O'Neil
- W.M. & Louise Jackson
- Lola Lumsden
- Jean & James Rhodes
- R. Kent Lundergan
- Kay Struckman
- Ed & Marge Schmunk
- Florence Olson
- Philip A. Elliott
- Cheryl Elliott
- Dorothy & Richard Kerslake
- Harold & Alta Loucks
- Ed & Vera Ashley
- Helen & Kaz Tamura
- Eileen & Philip Elliott
- William & Lois Moller
- Zelma Sutherland
- Robert W. Dunken
- Ruth Ann & Robert E. Hicks
- Mike & Elaine Dubesa
- Irene M. Maxwell
- Robert & Louise Dix

Gifts

**to the
Director's Fund**

In memory of
Ellen Brothers
Jean Holman
Irene M. Maxwell

to the
Barn Fund
In memory of
Clara Catherine Howk
Robert & Louise Dix

In memory of
Ellen Brothers
Evelyn Jacobson

**All-American Road
status celebrated**

The Troutdale area Chamber of Commerce took the wheel of a project to celebrate the naming of the Historic Columbia River Highway as one an All-American Road.

Our part involved portraits of parading historic vehicles as they traveled through downtown Troutdale, stopping at the Harlow House and proceeding on to the home of Junki and Linda Yoshida for dedication ceremonies.

Placed in Mayor Square in time for the party was one of 26 historic plaques telling the story of the highway and the gorge.

Troutdale's marker, with photos from our organization, quotes Mayor Laura Harlow on the virtues of having such a great road run through the community and talks about how Troutdale citizens viewed the road as an opportunity to make a few bucks.

**Barnstorm committee
takes up time line job**

The members of our Barnstorm committee -- who pushed hard to get our smelt exhibit open in June -- reconvened this fall after a summer rest.

Our next project -- a Troutdale time line to help children, and all of us, see how events in our city coincided with events in the state, the nation and the world. We have a \$300 grant from PGE and a \$1,000 gift from the Samuel Johnson Foundation to help. We expect the project to cost about \$7,000. The time line will be placed on the south wall of the barn's main floor.

At the same time, the committee takes up the task of working on a Lewis and Clark Expedition natural history exhibit featuring the animals that the Corps of Discovery found here along the Sandy River.

In other barn projects, our goal is to complete the Dick Jones' workshop. Sharon & Bill Nesbit donated used cabinets for the shop. A few more touches, and we will be ready to dedicate the area.

Name droppers....

In the mail...a letter from **Richard Knarr**, 1345 High Oak Ct., Pittsburgh, PA 15241, who received from his sister, **Jean**, a copy of our Oct. 1996 *Bygone Times* with the picture of his second grade class (**Camille Crumb's** class) on the front. Apologizing for taking two years to do it, he wrote giving identifications of his classmates, requested that his name be on our mailing list and sent dues and a contribution...welcome.

Kay Struckman, Sheryl Maydew, Louella Walsanen, Mike Dubesa, Bruce Thompson, Paul Thalhofer, Jim Kight, Pat Smith (all volunteers at Harvest Faire, to name a few)

Help Wanted: Someone to receive a clip relevant materials about our society from the newspapers. Scissors the only requirement.

Members of the **Stubbs family** joined us for our Troutdale School reunion telling tales of their family arriving during serious war-time housing shortages in the Troutdale area. People were flooding in to work in the aluminum plant. We see a future program in the accounts of housing rented at \$10 a month, no toilet.

There were more stories about cramming into Cedar School during the war and the cute bus driver **Bob Dix**, and the girl who had a crush on him. To supplement their income on the farm, **Bob and Louise** worked at the school, bus driver and janitor.

Deb Cook called the gas man recently to check the upstairs heating. He declared it safe, offered to come by anytime and relight the pilot and gave his home phone number because he is willing to volunteer. Thanks, **Mark Schneider**.

Kristi Granberg of Corbett won the helicopter ride at Harvest Faire. The kids from **Advent Lutheran Church**, and their parents, did the clean up. Plus we had the usual good help from **Michele and Mike** of the Troutdale parks department.

And more good volunteers: **Olive Johnston, Bob Streb, Dione Pugh, Len Otto, Mary Hughes, Jean Hybskmann, Penny Balch, Carolyn Taylor.**

Welcome to New Members

Alison & Oliver Batdorf
And to the Director's Club
Stephen P. & Synda Patten

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

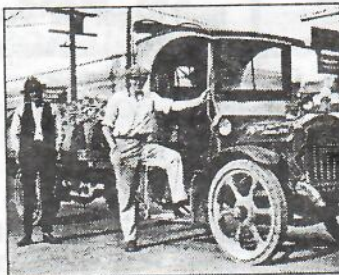
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