



BYGONE TIMES

A Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October, 1997

Sharon Nesbit, Editor, 665-0423

New look at the old town at Oct. 19 school reunion



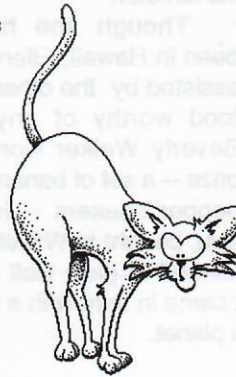
This picture, likely taken in the 1930s, shows a pastured cow and a dog on the grassy north side of the Historic Columbia River Highway at Troutdale where new buildings rise this fall. The building at the right is an auto dealership, now the site of our new plaza, Mayors Square.

Reunion & remembrance...

Our first meeting of the fall will be a **Troutdale School Reunion at 2 p.m. in Troutdale City Hall, Sunday, Oct. 19.** We plan to take advantage of the presence of so many native sons and daughters by showing slides -- and asking for reminiscences of -- Troutdale landmarks.

In 1972 our society began a collection of contemporary photos of the city's buildings. Every few years we shot another set to record the changes. Each time we went back to our members and asked them to recall what they could about the the buildings and their uses -- from those conversations we gathered local lore about events at the Doolittle store, the good meat-loaf sandwiches at Tad's, hiking uphill to school in the ice.

Join us for reunion and remembrance -- followed by punch and cookies -- on Oct. 19. We'll leave plenty of time for introductions and finding old friends.



October Calendar

Meetings

- Mon., Oct. 13, 7 p.m.**
Steering committee, Jean Holman's House, 4th and Dora Streets.
- Sat., Oct. 18, 9 a.m.**
Barnstorm meeting, barn.
- Sun., Oct. 19, 2 p.m.**

Troutdale School
Reunion, city hall.

- Wed., Nov. 5, 7 p.m.**
Board of directors meeting, barn

Events

- Fri. & Sat., Oct. 17 & 18**
Fairview Rockwood Wilkes Craft Fair, Rockwood Grange

Birthdays, celebrations milestones for members

Sid Britton celebrated his 97th birthday at his home in Troutdale in September.

Ike and June Handy marked their 60th wedding anniversary the same month.

A viewpoint on a trail in Wood Village is named for longtime city recorder, **Kay Powers**. **Sam Cox** attended the celebration dedicating the site.

Elsie Simnitt's family gave her an 80th birthday party in August. Members **Bonnie Irwin** and **Mary Allen** celebrated 75 in September with parties.

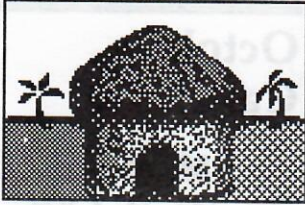
Chuck and Ginger Harlow Allen arranged a birthday card shower for daughter **Terri Allen Campbell's** 40th birthday in September.

Former members **Robin and Cindy Lehman** planted new roots in Warren, Vermont, where they run an inn. Also in Vermont is member **Bette Boyd**, whose most recent service to us was a search for a butter chum.

The need of a chum for Harvest Faire, caused **Kim Cook**, daughter of **Jim Cook** (Cook's gas station) to ask: "We are shipping a chum cross-country by air plane so we can make butter by hand?" We decided against it.

Director's club has Sweet Brier luau

Our Director's Club, members who pay an increased dues rate of \$75 a couple or \$50 a person gathered at Sweet Brier Farm Sept. 21 where David Ripma, Mario Ayala and Pat and Ellen Brothers hosted a Hawaiian luau to thank them for their support. Funds from their dues go to pay costs of our part-time director.



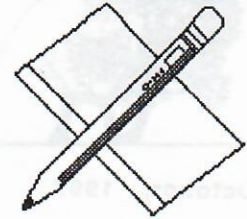
Though she has never been in Hawaii, Ellen Brothers, assisted by the others, cooked food worthy of any wahine. Beverly Welker won the first prize -- a set of banana salt and pepper shakers -- for her 35-year-old bright orange muumuu, bought in Waikiki. Placing second with a shirt that continued to glow well after dark was Bob Strebin. Nancy Cox came in third with a floral print of flowers never seen on this planet.

Our friends in history....

Ron Brentano, our liaison to the Oregon Historical Society died in September after a long illness with cancer. The Oregon Historical Society plans a special service of remembrance for him.

Our own **Dick Jones** continues to work at tidying up the many details of a busy, incredibly productive life. Dick has been diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease and spends his days, as he says, off loading information and material. He recently provided us with important documents and plans on the barn that were in his possession. He welcomes calls. And his address is: 8235 S.E. Morrison St., Portland, OR 97216.

Letter to a grandson:



The late **Bill Ellis** wrote this letter about smelt fishing.

Dear Brad:

I want to thank you for asking me to help you. These pictures, net and net needles may help you in your essay about smelt fishing.

In the first place, it is a 24-hour, around the clock job.

You have to get your market first, then your licenses for you and your help, and last, keep track of your lbs. of fish and pay lbs. tax to the State.

The best fishing I ever had I dipped 450 50-pound boxes in 4 hours.

The most fish I ever sold was 93 ton, 650 lbs. in 5 nights. I sold fish to mink farms, to fish hatcherys and fish companys.

Uses of smelt in early 1900:

Farmers would back their wagons in to the Sandy River at Troutdale and fill the beds full of smelt to spread around their fruit trees and gardens.

Smelt was used for livestock feed. They were dried, ground and mixed with oats and barley for feed.

Smelt was used for mink food because the oil in the fish give them a glossy coat.

Smelt was frozen solid then ground up fine for feed at fish hatcherys.

It was also delicious smoked and served with crackers and cheese and beer.

All the news that fits....

The National Railway Historical Society has taken an old wooden railroad speeder that was in our collection and that we were unable to restore. As our barn nears completion, **Bob Strebin** realized he needed to find a "home" for the cumbersome item. It will be restored by its new owners.

By Request at 101 N. Main in Gresham helped us prepare two lamps for use as security lights in the Harlow House. **Roger Elligsen** rewired them at no charge and **Veda Parsley and Laura Elligsen** sold us lamp shades at cost.

George Roper, an Othello, Wash., genealogist, is a new member. He came to our museum looking for roots and we found him a whole branch of previously unknown family. He is related to Charley Roper who once worked on the Sun Dial Ranch.

Jean Hybskmann pressed **Jerry Hybskmann** into some honey-do work around the Harlow House. We have a new storekeeper's bell on our screen, installed by **Bob Strebin**, who is overseeing installation of our new furnace/air conditioning system, likely complete by the time you get this newsletter.

Treasures at End of the Line....



This lovely little handmade wooden train by **Bill Jackson** is just one of the treasures you'll find at our museum store.

Hours: Wed-Sat., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. thru Oct.
In the historic Troutdale Rail Depot

Meet our new THS director



Deborah Brandt Cook, Troutdale Historical Society director, at her post in the End of the Line Store at the Rail Depot Museum.

Deb Cook, named director of our historical society this summer, has been a volunteer for us for several years. President of the Troutdale PTA and a devoted school volunteer, we first met her when she brought children to work on the Harlow House grounds, a rainy misbegotten event so disastrous that she sent a bouquet of flowers afterward.

Since then she has flipped burgers at the picnic (she did a number of interesting jobs to work her way through college, talents we will likely make use of) and was of invaluable help with the study of the Native American site on the Dix farm, a process that led to an archaeological survey prior to development of Strawberry Meadows subdivision.

When she heard that former director Ellen Brothers intended to resign, the better to run a bed and breakfast with husband, Pat, in their Columbia Gorge home, Deb sought the job. It is a cut a pay from her previous job with Waste Management of Troutdale, where she has been employed since 1994.

"This is the first time in my life that I can actually work in my field," she says. She has a bachelor of arts in antiquities with minors in history, anthropology and religion from Southwest Missouri State University. Her husband, Bob, works for Xerox, and son, James, is a new middle school student who worked hard this summer helping his mom and this society.

Skilled with computers and a capable administrator, Deb has prepared her first grant application, a request to PGE for \$500 in matching funds to provide images for the time line in the barn museum exhibit. She worked with Freida Ryland, our member and a PGE employee entitled to submit grant requests to her company's philanthropic program.

Deb is currently working mid-week days, Wednesday and Thursday, at the depot. Don't miss a chance to stop by and say hello. Her number there is 667-8268.



Harvest Faire is not yet accomplished at this writing. However, events like our ice cream social do not come off without considerable advance work. For that reason, some early thank yous:

A Great Pumpkin, inscribed "The Harlow House," is due to the foresight of **Mary and Dennis Bryson** who monogrammed a house pumpkin early in the summer risking life, limb and hernia to get the monster to the museum.

Special thanks to our sponsors, who make music and children's activities possible. The music is the gift of **Walsh & Sons Trucking and Reynolds Metals**. Events at the Harlow House were sponsored by **Historic Columbia River Jeweler and Handy Bros. Service, Inc. The Gresham Outlook** gave free ad space.

Deb Cook went looking for additional sponsors when we realized we were coming up short.

Dorothy Sturges and Florence Baker dialed their fingers off to fill our volunteer list. **Bob Strebin** put up all the signs, chased them when the wind blew them away, and put them up again. Because it is illegal to use sign posts or public right-of-way, all our signs go on private property. Thanks to those who lend us a patch of their lawn.

A major gift of time came to us from **Janet Vandiver**, Harlow House volunteer host, who took on the Country Ham Dinner when **Tad's Chicken n' Dumplings** went into retirement. (Tad's did provide the green beans and cooked them, to boot.) Janet's involvement, necessarily included husband, **Wayne**, who toted \$200 worth of hams. **Bill and Sharon Strebin** of Strebin farms, donated 200 pounds of potatoes. And **Rich and Dorothy Kerslake** promise to cook the meal for near year's Harvest Faire.

Kim Cook is making a pictorial record of Harvest Faire and **Jim and Retha Bennett** of Sandy River Orchards promised their cider press.

So, what else is going on....

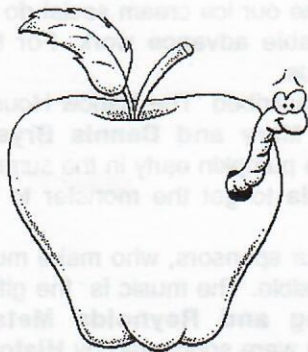
Sharon Nesbit led five school walking tours in September. These three-hour events begin at Troutdale School and conclude at the Harlow House. Children spend about 45 minutes in Troutdale City Hall where Mayor Paul Thalhofer greets every class and helps conduct them in a mock council session.

The children, 3rd and 4th graders, were asked whether to build a new city hall, or fix up the old one. In each case they voted to rehabilitate and remodel the old city hall in the interests of historic preservation. Go figure.

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

Address Correction Requested

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Troutdale School Reunion
2 p.m., Sunday Oct. 19
Troutdale City Hall

TREASURER'S REPORT
FROM PENNY BALCH

OPERATING ACCT.....	\$3,685.95
DED. BARN FUND.....	150.00
BARN BUILDING.....	27,142.94
ENDOWMENT FUND...	28,908.25
DIRECTORS FUND (moved to Op. Acct)	
BINGO FUND	1,958.73
TOTAL.....	\$ 61,845.87

Penny Balch, THS treasurer, is concerned about slim reserves in our operating account, which pays our monthly bills. Several things, including low attendance and income at our ice cream social and costs in opening the depot store, have cut into our operating funds. While the board of directors is pleased with our barn fund and growing endowment fund, that money, nearly \$56,000, cannot be used for daily bills.

Officers and board members are studying solutions and welcome suggestions from our members.

One of the pleasures of summer was an oral history interview conducted with Irene Laurenzio Boitano, who grew up on a Troutdale celery farm.

GIFTS

TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of
Gina Held
Elsie Simnitt

In memory of her mother,
Theresa Kercher
Jan. 10, 1912-
July 20, 1997
from Leona Balch

and from
Jack Dempster

TO THE GENERAL FUND
Mary Bryson

NEW & GIFT
MEMBERSHIPS
George Roper
Jack and Iva Sue Elmer
a gift from
Bob Strebin

Namedroppers

Pearl Davis, a resident of Wood Village since 1946, dropped by the Harlow House recently to photograph two quilts she donated... **Jean Hybskmann**, our summer Harlow House volunteer coordinator, was invited to Brownsville recently by Vi Menefee to experience that historical group's annual tea... **Mary Hughes**, stalwart Harlow House host, had a knee replaced this summer, but still plans to take her regular date at the museum this winter... If you can help out this winter call Deb Cook, 661-2164... Members demonstrating pioneer craft skills at Harvest Faire were **Chuck Rollins** and **Steve Lehl**, splitting shakes, **June Jones** at the spinning wheel, **Alice Wand** doing rose beads and **Juanita Graff Wilton** with her quilting... New curator **Mary Bryson** has actually freed up several square feet of her office floor and is stashing away new treasures every week.