Sept. 18 & 19:
Harvest Faire
pies • food • music • quilts

Harvest Faire -- our 10th fall festival -- is Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 18 & 19, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Glenn Otto Community Park, the Harlow House and Barn Museum, and Troutdale Rail Depot and End of the Line Museum Store.

At ice cream social we usually hear: "Is this the one where you have the pies?" So, for all those pie fans, this is the one where we have the pies.

Troutdale Historical Society pie bakers have been alerted. Ahead of the pie, we offer a meal of Swedish meatballs and accompaniments -- that includes the green beans from Tad's.

For music, sponsored by Reynolds Metals Co., we have Riders of the Western Range from 1 to 4 on Saturday and the Dover Weinberg quartet from 1 to 4 on Sunday. Concluding events on Sunday, we'll have the drawing for our raffle. Read more about that on Page 3. An envelope and tickets is included in this newsletter. You need not be present to win.

Arts, crafts booths will be in the park as well as an assortment of non-profit groups offering information. And back this year, our own Granny's Attic sale.

At the Harlow House, organizers will display old and new quilts. And, if you have Christmas shopping in mind, don't forget the toys for big and little kids at our Rail Depot museum store. Marge Schmunk's collection of train goods is a wonder.

To help out, check out the column on the right side of this page.

In this oversized newsletter:

Δ Δ A calendar of the year's events, including our programs, festivals and trots clear to year 2000. And a list of the names and numbers that you'll need.

Δ Δ A great story, a last-minute rescue and a photo from an amazing album of the 1921 ice storm.

Δ Δ A poster to put up advertising our Sept. 18 and 19 Harvest Faire.

Δ Δ A list of jobs so you can help out this year, from cookies to ways and means to greeting guests.

Call for hands for Harvest Faire

What can you do to lend a hand for Harvest Faire?

Bake a pie. Call Dorothy Sturges, 666-9601.

Donate items for Granny's attic or work selling great stuff. Call Mona Mitchoff, 666-5455.

Work in the kitchen or at the part.
Help clean up. Decorate on Friday night. Or work with children. Call Adrienn Clausen, 663-0895.

Want to help make cider? Call Mona Mitchoff, 666-5455.

Want to host at the Harlow House barn, or depot? Call 661-2164.

Get your seat for covered bridge and dinner theater trek to Albany

We're off to a Albany for fall leaves, covered bridges, antiques and dinner theater on Saturday, Oct. 30. All transportation, tips, two meals, tours, theater and hospitality room $85 per person. Send check, name, address and phone number to Troutdale Historical Society, 104 S.E. Kibbling Street, Troutdale, Oregon, 97060. Questions: 661-2164.
Montrose Park, riverside dance hall

Years ago, probably 20 or more, Troutdale Historical Society sponsored a history essay contest for Troutdale school students. Kaia Struckman, daughter of Kay and the late Marlin Struckman offered a typed one-paragraph manuscript about an old dance hall on the Sandy River property that is now her home.

"The people there sold Boot Leg Whiskey," Kaia wrote. "The people had SWINGING dances. THEN they had a DEPRESSION and they didn't have any money. to go dancing or buy bootleg whiskey. During the depression they tore out the floors and benches to put it their own homes. It was built on the Struckman's lot about 1915.

It was called Rosemont Park. From the park there are still things from the park left like a old fireplace, an outhouse and part of a fence."

Kaia, now a mom of two and a college graduate, was 10 or so when she did her research. She wasn't far off.

Not too long ago a news item in The Gresham Outlook mentioned Montrose Park as a dance hall and picnic site on the Sandy River. Tim Hill, historian for the McMenamins operations, asked for more.

A June 7, 1932 Outlook story reported that 300 attended the opening dance at the park and that it had been improved for picnics, dancing and swimming. By the Fourth of July that year a three day celebration was planned.

"The park has a wonderful beach with springboards. There are tables and stoves throughout the park with good drinking water available."

Pretty much as Kaia described. Further Montrose Park advertised in The Outlook, offering an admission of 25 cents to the dance pavilion. On the same page was an ad for Sanborn's Park, also between the Troutdale and Viking Club (Stark Street) bridges on the Sandy River.

Why is McMenamins interested in a one-time Sandy River Park? Montrose, explains Hills, was the first name of Montrose Ringer. He built his Sandy River dance hall about 1919. It did fail in the Depression, but he also built Portland's Crystal Ballroom, now restored by McMenamins and swinging again.

In our Mail Box:

From Dorothy Cereghino, July 14, 1999:

"Our kids were all home when the videos (The Cereghino family video, (filmed at our April meeting by Charles Jennings) arrived and they all enjoyed it. We were especially impressed with the questions the interviewer used to get good responses. And, needless to say, we all had some good naughts. Thank you very much."

Copies of the Cereghino video, as well as one with Edna Bramhall Ellis are available at $15 each from the museum office, 861-2164.

And from Connie Purvis, who is intrigued by the number of 'mock' recipes in old cookbooks and just in time for zucchini season:

Mock Apple Crisp

5 cups zucchini, peeled, seeded and sliced
3/4 cup water
1/4 cup lemon juice
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 cup sugar
6 tablespoons margarine
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 cup flour
1/2 teaspoon salt

Boil zucchini in water about 10 minutes. Drain and add lemon juice, cinnamon and sugar. Pour into a 9x9-inch pan. Top with crumb mixture of:

1/2 cup margarine
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup flour
dash of salt

Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes.

"My college roommate made this one weekend when we visited them in Carson City. Her oldest son doesn't like zucchini. When he found he'd been fooled he pouted the remainder of the weekend and wouldn't eat another bite! It's very good," writes Connie.
Chim Howell, Troutdale's barefoot boy

Donald "Chim" Howell died July 19 in a care center at the age of 83.

His family suggests remembrances to the Troutdale Historical Society. We believe they honor the many remembrances Chim left us.

He and John Nasmyth offered a treasure of stories about growing up in Troutdale. On Jan. 20, 1986, we got the two of them together for an oral history interview and asked about their childhood and lifelong friendship. (That interview was taped and has been transcribed by Connie Purvis.)

Chim always claimed that he went barefoot summer and winter. He said shoes hurt his feet and that he did not wear them until he was in high school.

The boys prowled around town making it their business to know where all the stills were during prohibition. Sitting in city hall, Howell said, "There were three stills within about 75 or 80 feet of where we are now."

From that point interviewer, Sharon Nesbit, continued: "And was one of them yours?"

"Well," Howell answered, and then Nasmyth interrupted, "Ask him if it was his big brother's."

"Did you make good stuff in it," Nesbit asked.

"Some people said it was," Chim answered.

Chim worked for the Multnomah County Road Department. His wife, Tillie Wiser, died in 1990.

In Memory

Also recently deceased are Gloria Witter, longtime Gresham resident, and Kent Lundergan, a Wood Village resident, who was a member of our organization as well as the Troutdale Lions. Gloria always had a booth at Harvest Faire. Kent was a Wood Village city council member.

So what's in this envelope for me?

The envelope attached to this newsletter has five raffle tickets in it. If you want to participate in our Harvest Faire raffle (the prizes are listed below), then fill out the part that calls for name and address, put those ticket halves in the envelope along with $1 for each ticket and send back to us. Keep the other half for your records. The drawing will be at Harvest Faire Sept. 19. You do not have to be present to win. And you have a chance to win one of four prizes:

• A free night at Cedarplace Bed and Breakfast in Troutdale, compliments of Frank and Pamela George.

• A $100 gift certificate from Mt. Hood Gutters, Inc., compliments of Steve Morris.

• A $50 gift certificate at Sandy Auto Body, compliments of Brandon Swan.

• A $50 gift certificate from Bridlewood Stables in Boring, compliments of Greg Shrake.

Don't want to enter the raffle? Just throw the tickets out.

These raffle prices help us pay expenses of Harvest Faire. Proceeds from that event go to helping run our organization and building exhibits for the barn and other museums.

Coming up:

Troutdale School Reunion

Sunday, Oct. 17, Troutdale School Reunion will be a visit to the old school, beginning at 2 p.m. Graduates, teachers and former staff members will get to look at the school and compare notes. Len Otto & Kathy Dix Green, both graduates and a teachers at the school, will host the open house and reception.
This scene of the Columbia River Highway, west of Troutdale and just west of the railroad overpass is one of the many photos in the 1921 Ice storm album of R.C. Charlton recently given to our historical society. Of special interest in the collection is a photo of a wooden bridge over the railroad tracks that, we believe, was used by the McGinnis family to reach their celery fields. Another photo shot in the same general area as the one above, shows the buildings and campus of The Cedars, an institution built in World War I to house and rehabilitate 'sporting women.'

Search for a director continues into fall

At this writing our historical society officers and board have not yet found a new director to staff our office, run our business affairs and help direct the future of our organization.

Two near misses in hiring a new director have occurred since March but we have not yet been able to make a match. We have not fully realized how fortunate we have been to find within our own membership people such as Deb Cook and the late Ellen Brothers willing to work way more than their allotted 20 hours a week to keep our organization abreast of daily obligations. Because of them and their willingness to be over worked and underpaid, we have been spoiled.

Jean Hyskemann stepped into the director's job through the summer. Aided by help and advice from Mary Bryson and Sheryl Maydew -- and from afar -- Deb Cook, she was able to learn the job and keep things on an even keel. Now Jean wants to continue her travels and plans to leave Sept. 1, and we are again in need.

Museum professionals advise us that we have exhausted the supply of 'good guys' in our membership and that it is time to raise the money to fund a full-time professional director. Other experts have suggested two part-time folks -- a clerical/secreatarial person to run the office and a part-time director who works on grants and future projects. Either way, it is our estimate that a full-time, or two part-time, positions will cost about $15,000 additional per year. To that end, we have been sending fund-raising letters to some of our members, asking their help in meeting this need for the next two years. So far, four of our donors have helped us reach 20 percent of that goal. That still leaves about $12,000 a year left to raise.

Until then we are attempting to hire temporary help to get us through the winter months. Among the projects ahead needing a professional director: renovation of the depot and its railroad exhibit, plans and design for a Lewis and Clark exhibit, completion of the upstairs of the barn with more of the Troutdale story told there, and improved work in education the children of our community.
Troutdale Historical Society Calendar

1999

Sept. 18 & 19, Harvest Faire
Saturday & Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Glenn Otto Community Park, Harlow House and Barn, Rail Depot

October 17, Troutdale School Reunion
Sunday, 2 p.m., Troutdale Elementary School
Reception for Troutdale School alumni

October 30, Fall Trek, Covered Bridge Tour to Albany
Saturday, 9 a.m., departing Harlow House

November 14, Girls Been Workin’ on the Railroad
Sunday, 2 p.m., Troutdale City Hall
Interview with Lois Zirk about the girls who ran the rails in the Gorge in World War II

December 4, Christmas at the Harlow House
Saturday, noon to 4 p.m., Harlow House & Barn
Santa Claus, cookies and the Harlow House in Christmas dress

2000

January 16, Future look: When will Mount Hood erupt? (tentative)
Sunday, 2 p.m., Troutdale City Hall

February 20, 20th Century Wonders: The Bendix
Sunday, 2 p.m., Troutdale City Hall
A diary account of the arrival of a Bendix washing machine by Marlene Loisdottir
plus annual election of officers and general meeting

March 20, Second Pioneers: Dustbowlers and others
Sunday, 2 p.m., Troutdale City Hall
Interviews with the families who came west in the 1930s and 1940s

April 16, A chat with Clara and Laura, a reenactment
Sunday, 2 p.m., Troutdale City Hall
Living history interview with Troutdale’s two women mayors.

May 6, Third Annual Tea & Tour
Saturday, 11 a.m. & 2 p.m., Brickhaven Bed & Breakfast, Corbett

May 21, Second Annual Cemetery Road Trip
Sunday, 2 p.m., Troutdale City Hall
Bus tour with cemetery historian Stan Clarke to more East County historic cemeteries

June 3 & 4, 32nd Annual Ice Cream Social
Saturday & Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Glenn Otto Community Park, Harlow House and Barn, Rail Depot
Albertsons cards add up to bucks

Last year Deb Cook signed us up to participate in a shopping program with Albertson's stores. Simply present your Albertson's card when you shop at one of their stores, and our society gets a quarterly donation from the firm.

This month, Albertson's sent us a check for $143.98. It is a very easy way to benefit our organization at no cost to yourself. If you do not have an Albertson's shopping card, call the museum office at 661-2164, leave name and address and we'll be happy to send you one.

Memorial Gifts

In memory of
Roy Meger
from
Nettie Cox

In memory of
Kent Lundergan
from
Nettie Cox

In memory of
Donald Howell
from
Warren & Christine Howell

In memory of
Bill Hessel
from
Robert & Louise Dix

Welcome to new member:
Janice Falkenstein

(Jan filled in at the last moment as a table host at our May Tea & Tour)

Ways to make a difference

The Troutdale Historical Society offers many ways to contribute to our organization. Here are just a few:

Vendor Booth
We still have space for vendors at Harvest Faire, Sept. 18 and 19, if you would like to sign up to sell crafts, or those surplus zucchini from your garden, call 661-2164.

Cookies & organizer
Those who appreciate toothsome homemade cookies and hot coffee at our winter meetings will also understand the need for someone to organize refreshments and for others to do the baking. If you would like to be the telephone contact, or if you and a friend are willing to undertake baking for one of the programs listed on the enclosed calendar, call 661-2164.

Winter Hosts
We have several opportunities for museum hosting jobs this winter. We would love to keep our Depot museum and store open through Christmas if we could develop a list of regular Saturday and Sunday afternoon volunteers to work there. We always need Saturday and Sunday afternoon volunteers at the Harlow House. Call 661-2164.

Scrapbook Keeper
People who like the new scrapbook techniques will enjoy keeping our historical society scrapbook. We try to have it up to date every February at our annual meeting. Call 661-2164.

Filing & Curation
Like poking through old papers or photos? We have several projects that require the filing and sorting of documents. An adventure in history, because we're not sure what's there. Call 661-2164.

News Updates:

What's happening in our museums

Harlow House
We have the material ready and are waiting for electricians to install a new museum lighting system in the Harlow House.

Out back, the City of Troutdale is completing a flood control project in the old pond area. Stream restoration people have built a catch basin at the foot of the waterfall and a meandering stream should slow the flow of water until it meets the culvert under the parking lot.

Tina Davis and the local Job's Daughters chapter painted our gazebo.

In the Barn
Installation of donated cabinets has been completed in the work shop and Jerry Hybskmann donated several days' work to put things to rights, sorting tools, paint, nails and the leftovers of our barn construction project.

Mary Bryson, curator, continues to move valued artifacts into our new, safe, and dry storage area.

At the Depot
Sheryl Maydew is leading a project to organize a three-member partnership to restore the depot for use as a visitor center featuring our train museum and museum store.

The goal is to create a partnership with the city and the Troutdale Area Chamber of Commerce to revitalize the depot as a gathering place for visitors. Mike Dubesa volunteered to be on the feasibility committee.

Planning
Kim Cook led the committee chairpersons, board and officers through a goal planning update in July. Her expertise helps us plan our budgets and programs and set priorities.
Harvest Faire
Sept. 18 & 19

Anyone remember this old house?

Orpha Cosper of Portland visited the Harlow House recently asking if this home was familiar to Troutdale residents. Her grandfather O.H. Fuller built it in Troutdale before 1900 for his brother-in-law, Tom Eager, who, family lore says, owned a corn cannery. Eager's brother-in-law, Marion Hardin, helped build the home. It is not familiar to us, but does anyone recognize it?

Elizabeth McCallum, who works in the development offices in city hall recent gave us an interesting clipping from the Community Press, Oct. 27, 1976. A feature story tells how Troutdale's Bob Sturges supplied a propeller for a P-40 fighter when one of the vintage WWII aircraft was damaged in filming the combat scene in the movie, "Tora! Tora! Tora!"

Bob loaned the propeller to Twentieth Century Studios for the filming. His sons still run the family aircraft part business, which is called Columbia Airotive.

And on the same page, an attempt to pass a serial levy to fund the nursing home at Edgefield Manor, now McMenamins Edgefield.

We have also received another fine smelt fishing picture from Doris Woolley.

And some fun smelt run stories from Steve Lehl who copied them from the April 19, 1923, Portland Telegram. One describes an accident in which an Albany man spilled a bucket of smelt from his running board on to the Troutdale bridge. He hit the brakes. The car skidded on the slick smelt and veered into the path of an excursion car carrying eight smelt sightseers. Must have been quite a sight, smell and broken glass all over. But no major harm done.