

BYGONE TIMES

A Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May, 1999

Sharon Nesbit, Editor, 665-0423

Newsletter out early to announce events:

May is a big month for the Troutdale Historical Society. Because of a series of events, beginning with Treasures of Oregon and continuing through our Old-fashioned Ice Cream Social on the first weekend of June, the newsletter comes to you early as a reminder of these activities.



Treasures of Oregon, April 30 and May 1

Troutdale Historical Society hosts Treasures of Oregon, a huge rolling van of some of the most treasured artifacts of the Oregon Historical Society at Glenn Otto Community Park, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days.

The exhibit is free. We will have our own museum open at the same time. Paula Goldie is coordinating school tours. Be sure not to miss this one.

Second Annual Tea and Tour, May 1

Pat Brothers opens Forest Hall at Bridal Veil for this event. A few seats remain at press time. Price is \$35 per seat for the full tea and tour. Jean Hybskmann is the chairwoman.

Troutdale Trek, May 13-15

We will take a three-day jaunt to Washington's Lake Chelan as well as Grand Coulee. Price is \$300. It includes 3 meals, including a just-added dazzling breakfast, a boat tour of Chelan and rooming in a nice resort at the tip end of the lake.

Cemetery Trip set for May 16

Our finally program of the year brings the rare treat of a tour of historic cemeteries with Historian Stan Clarke, the expert on grave yards in the urban area. Don't miss our ride to the marble orchards, or as Stan calls them, history parks. We'll pass the hat to help pay for the bus.

Ice Cream Social, June 5 & 6

It's not too early to call Adrienne Clausen at 663-0895 and offer your help.

CALENDAR/April & May Meetings & Events

Fri -Sat, April 30, May 1, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

AT&T Treasures of Oregon Exhibit

Glenn Otto Community Park
Traveling exhibit of extraordinary items in the collection of the Oregon Historical Society. Free. Harlow House & Barn open.

Saturday, May 1, 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.

Second annual Tea & Tour, Forest Hall

A benefit for the Harlow House.
Full tea and tour of the historic Bridal Veil home of Pat Brothers and the late Ellen Brothers. Call 661-2164



Thur-Sat, May 13-15, Spring Trek

THS travels to Chelan/Grand Coulee

A three-day trek to Washington State with a boat trip on Lake Chelan. Seats open, call 661-2164.

Sunday, May 16, 2 p.m.

Cemetery Hunting, with Historian Stan Clarke

Troutdale City Hall departure, 2:30 p.m.
A bus tour of local historic cemeteries, led by Oregon cemetery historian Stan Clarke. We will pass the hat to help cover the cost of the bus.

Sat. and Sun., June 5 & 6, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Annual Ice Cream Social

Glenn Otto Community Park, Harlow House and Barn, Rail Depot Museum and End of the Line Museum store.

Board of Directors

Wednesday, May 5, 7 p.m.

In the barn. All members welcome

Wednesday, June 2, 7 p.m.

In the barn. All members welcome

Beginning Sat., June 5, Summer Hours:

Harlow House

Depot Museum & Store

Wed-Sat., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sun., 1-4 p.m.

**Inside: Search continues for Director -
- A goodbye to Roy Meger -New pictures
of old times - Hunting gramps by e-mail**

Namedroppers

Hurrah for **Val Lantz** who applied to the Hardy Plant Society for a \$400 grant to help us finish up some yard projects at the Harlow House, including moving the new Lover's Oak which **Bob Strebin** is training and grooming, to a permanent site at the Harlow House ...And thank you to **Paula Goldie** who is coordinating school tours for our Treasures of Oregon exhibit at Glenn Otto Community Park. She does well because she can also see into the future. Paula is also the tea leaf reader at our May 1 Tea and Tour...And thanks to these folks who answered the call when cookies were needed for the funeral of **Roy Meger: Jean Holman, Dorothy Sturges, Kay Struckman, Sheryl Maydew, Sharon Nesbit, Florence Baker, Mary Bryson and Mona Mitchoff...**The cookie planning caused **Sheryl Maydew** to comment that she treasured the old-fashioned tradition but was particularly pleased that the plea for cookies was circulated on the internet...Speaking of computers, **Judy McGinnis** took the cards for every item we have cataloged in our artifact collection and entered the information on to our computer data base, about a three week job. It means that if you are interested in searching our artifact list for, say, a pink girdle, the computer will hunt it up for you...**Mary Bryson**, curator warns that we're not done. Many items have slipped through the cataloging cracks and must yet be entered into our records. We are still working on a locating method that will help us find them easily...More inventory work was done by **Penny Balch and Marge Schmunk** who counted the contents of our depot store in preparation for another summer sale season...And two sponsors will help out with our annual ice cream social. **Handy Bros. Service and Waste Management of Troutdale** have agreed to give dollars to fund ice cream social events

Treasurer's report

by Penny Balch

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Operating Fund | \$ 4,448.33 |
| Barn account | 8,034.27 |
| Director's Fund | 1,382.00 |
| Capital Imp. Fund | 7,346.40 |
| Endowment Fund | 38,100.39 |

Hunting gramps on the Internet

Not long ago Sharon Nesbit received a letter from Walter Newman of who knows where. The original letter was filed so carefully we can't at this moment ascertain where Newman lives -- Midwest, East Coast, or somewhere like that -- and all further correspondence has been by e-mail supplying no clue.

Newman, hunting his wife's grandfather Carl Beuter for a family genealogy, learned that Beuter died in the Multnomah County Poor Farm. He got on the Internet and found McMenamins Edgefield web page, read there the history Nesbit wrote for the McMenamin Poor Farm complex and wrote by snail mail to our historical society address.

Nesbit responded by E-mail directing Newman go search the county archives where he learned that Beuter died on Dec. 10, 1918, and was buried in Multnomah Cemetery. Where might that be, he asked? And further, the name of



the
mortality
was
unclear.

Uncertain where Multnomah was, Nesbit directed Newman to Stan Clarke via e-mail. Stan is the cemetery historian who leads our cemetery road trip May 16. Clarke supplied the correct name of the cemetery and identified the mortuary.

Knowing Beuter's death date, Stan went one step farther and stopped by the mortuary that is the descendant of the 1918 firm that was in charge of Beuter's service. There he found that Carl Beuter was buried at a cost of \$100 and a list of other relatives. (He also learned that though Beuter's funeral was in late December, 1918, it was not until the following July 30, that the family paid the bill.)

Walter Newman promises to be in Oregon and Washington in late summer. One of his stops, he says, will be the Multnomah County Poor Farm.

Reminder:

**A few seats remain for our
May 1 Tea & Tour.
Telephone 661-2164.**

Society continues search for director

Former director Deb Cook and family arrived in Missouri in time for their first tomado, which struck a mile away from their home. Deb is in touch by e-mail, advising on processes and unfinished business.

The office work of our society is being done on a volunteer basis by Sheryl Maydew and Penny Balch. Penny drives from Tigard once a week, and sometimes twice, to make sure banking and accounting processes stay up to speed. Obviously, we cannot continue to rely on the kind help of these folks and the board continues its search for a new director.

What does a director do?

On a regular basis, currently at about 20 hours a week, our director gets the mail, distributes it and acts on it, writes and mails thank you letters and acknowledgements and correspondence. The director receives checks and money, pays bills, records it and puts it on the bank and reports to the treasurer.

Much time is spent with phone calls ranging from requests for museum visits to coordinating volunteers working on various projects.

Further, a director is often asked to meet repair people or others coming to work on our facilities and to host our museums.

A director orchestrates board and committee meetings, seeing that people are notified, and minutes are sent, frequently nudging the process along. Beyond that, a good director thinks ahead, watches for opportunities and writes grants.

Other than deflecting bullets with his or her fists and leaping over tall buildings, those are the duties of a Troutdale Historical Society director.

Deb Cook was not much phased by a tomado.

Troutdale's goodbye to Grocer Roy Meger

His brother, Art, commented at Roy Meger's funeral service March 30 that when Roy closed the Troutdale General Store he had a couple of shoe boxes stuffed with unpaid bills.

One gentleman stood and in a choked voice told how the mill closed and Roy extended credit.

The stories were the best part of that sad day we said goodbye to the quiet man who was such a large part of Troutdale. Roy died March 27 at his Troutdale home at the age of 83. His store is now Troutdale Vision Clinic, and the restored floor the same one Roy swept for so many years, but with the boards turned to the reverse side.

Memories at the service ranged from the hours children spent in front of the penny candy to the chocolate-covered cherries Roy slipped into the bags of his customers at holiday time.

Troutdale Historical Society president David Ripma told of driving Roy in the city parade when he was grand marshal in 1991.

"He wasn't just giving away penny candy," Ripma said. "He was throwing whole candy bars.

We had to stop the whole parade right in front of the store because he ran out of candy and he went in to get more."

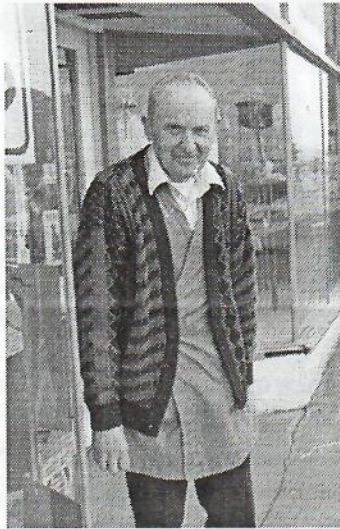
Perhaps the most striking comments came from Ali Peret who come to Troutdale well ahead of the rest of the fashionable stores now here and opened his Columbia River Jeweler's shop next door to the general store.

Peret told of the kindness extended to him by Roy and his sister, Elsie Simnitt, but he was alarmed at the number of homeless men hanging around, all subjects of Roy's charity.

Later Roy took up feeding the birds, spreading many pounds of bird seed daily on the north side of the highway.

"And then there was ALL this bird poop," Peret said. He said that he realized that all of it was an indication of Roy's goodness and bigger than individual concerns or businesses. Instead of griping, Peret chose to admire Roy and enjoy his unique presence.

The family suggests contributions to Troutdale Historical Society. Roy was a life member. The little donation jar he and Elsie kept on the counter paid our postage bills for many years.



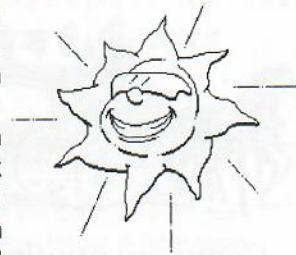
Museum hours announced summer volunteers needed

Our museums, the Rail Depot and End of the Line museum store and the Harlow House and Barn, open for the summer on the first day of our ice cream social, Saturday, June 5.

Hours for both sites will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and 1-4 p.m., Sunday, through September.

Interest in both facilities is high. This week *Sunset Magazine* called for hours of operation because the magazine will print a travel feature on Troutdale in July. We also received a call from Portland Fairview RV Park, where the manager is preparing a list of things to do for visitors.

The trick for us is to be there and be smiling when they come in the door. If you can help, please call Jean Hybskmann, volunteer coordinator, 669-7822. She thinks it is just ducky if you offer one regular day a month, or even -- blessings on you -- one regular day a week. We have substitutes for emergencies, vacations and etc., but having a regular schedule is a real help.



Good Stuff on the Curator's Desk

by Mary Bryson

Photos of family outings, awards for bravery during World War II, and a scrapbook lovingly created by a proud mother --these number among the items recently donated to the Troutdale Historical Society by Lois D. Coons, widow of former Troutdale resident Merle Coons.

The photo album contains many candid snapshots of Milo and Helen Coons, Merle's parents. Among them are pictures of Milo playing on an early baseball beam, Milo in World War I military uniform and, of course, smelt and salmon photos. Portraits of Troutdale Grade School classes in the 1930s are included and will make a wonderful addition to our school photos.

Donations like these are priceless treasures for our photo collection. Not only do they allow us to peek at early Troutdale family gatherings, they give us a view of the clothing of an earlier era, provide a record of social outings and sport events, and offer early views of a differing landscape.

The military photos and medals will go to our collection of World Wars I and II uniforms, swords, posters, and even a Civil War cannon ball.

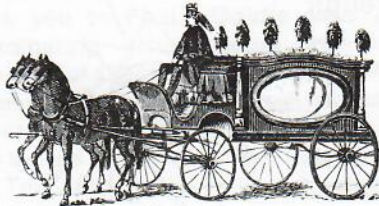
Edna Ellis former Troutdale resident and oral history provider, made a gift of three irons and a Troutdale Charter, dated 1942. These donations join an extensive collection of smelt artifacts already donated by Ellis.

The Troutdale Historical Society is always grateful for donated items to our artifact collection. If you have something you think might have historical value to our museums, call 661-2164 and leave a brief description and number. I will return you call.

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

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TROUTDALE, OR.
PERMIT NO. 5

**Trip to the
marble orchards**



**Cemetery hunting
May 16
Troutdale City Hall**

Gifts

To the endowment fund

in memory of
Roy Meger
Vernon & Martine Rathman
Walter & Viola Nasmyth
Kenneth & Patricia Smith

in memory of
Merle M. Coons
Lois D. Coons

in memory of
Dick Walker
Mike & Pauline Morrow

Gifts

To the general fund

Gary & June Houghton
P. Jean Buck

**Gift memberships were
purchased for the
following:**

John A. Sherman, Kathleen Dombrowski
and Louise Blohm by **June Sherman
Nasmyth.**

Ken Otto and Joann Otto by **Helen Otto**
(who, incidentally is a grandmother for the
second time.)

Numbers you need:

Harlow House, 661-2164
You can FAX the Harlow House
at the same number
E-mail: Troutdale_Historical_Society@
juno.com

Name droppers

From Stanford California comes word from **Barbara Grahn** that husband, **Dennis**, (the Grahn's were Harlow House caretakers years ago) appears in the April 12 *Newsweek* magazine. Dennis patented an invention for an afterburner that eliminates pollution. *Newsweek* did an article on challenge contests at large universities interviewing Dennis and his "cronies" extensively...We missed **Nancy Cox** on the list of cookie bakers for the Roy Meger funeral service...Thank you to **Sheryl Maydew & Penny Balch** for pitching in during the search for a director. At press time, we know that **Jean Hybskmann** will serve as interim director this summer while our search for a permanent director continues... **Don't miss the announcement of member of the year at our May meeting. ALWAYS A BIG SECRET.**

**Welcome to the
Director's Club:**

**John Malcom, Christine and Dr.
Richard Balsiger and Helen
Otto.**