



BYGONE TIMES

A Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October, 1999

Sharon Nesbit, Editor, 665-0423

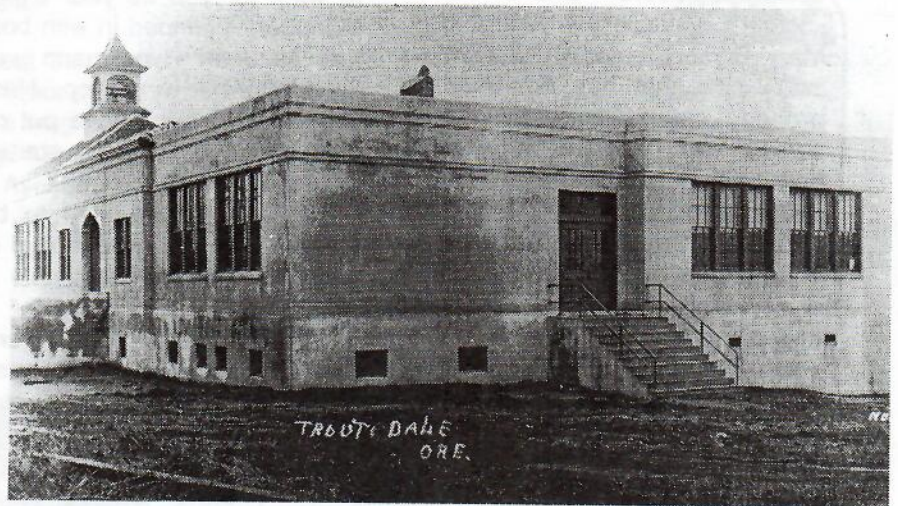
A chance to renew ties with the old school

We meet on Sunday, Oct. 17, at 2 p.m. in Troutdale Elementary school just to revisit old memories, seek out the scenes of academic and athletic victories and to enjoy them with old friends.

The gathering is our annual Troutdale school reunion, this time a visitation in the building itself.

We want to see Bob Dix in his old classroom where his daughter now teaches, and Len Otto, student who returned as a teacher.

Afterward, we'll go to the cafeteria for reminiscence and refreshment. If you could help by bringing cookies, please call the Harlow House, 661-2164, and leave your name and phone number with Becky Marcus.



This photo from our files shows Troutdale School shortly after it was completed in 1926. It is the third school to serve the community. The steeple of the second school, a wooden structure building in 1892, pokes up behind the new building.

Thanks for Harvest Faire

This newsletter goes to press before Harvest Faire so we cannot report on the aftermath of that event, but we can thank three fine sponsors,

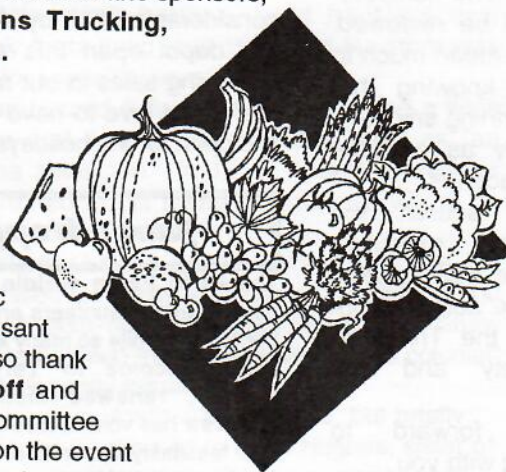
Walsh & Sons Trucking,

Handy Bros.

Service, Inc.,

and

Reynolds Metals for supporting our fall festival costs for music and other pleasant events. We also thank **Mona Mitchoff** and her steering committee for their work on the event and all the volunteers who show up to help out, to all who bake pies, make phone calls, watch our museums and tend to the business of our society.



Don't forget that **Quilts, Old and New** remain on display in the Harlow House through the fall. The Harlow House winter hours are 1-4 p.m., Saturday & Sunday.

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Calendar/October/November

Board of Directors Meeting

Wed., Oct. 6, 7 p.m.

In the barn.

Troutdale School Reunion

Sun., Oct. 17, 2 p.m.

Troutdale Elementary School

Covered Bridge Trek to Albany

Sat., Oct. 30, 8:30 a.m.

Bus leaves the Harlow House.

Board of Directors Meeting

Wed., Nov. 3, 7 p.m.

In the barn.

Girls Been Workin' on the Railroad

Sun., Nov. 14, 2 p.m.

Live interview in Troutdale City Hall.

Inside this newsletter: A New Calendar for the Year 2000 Meet Becky Marcus, office manager Last chance to sign up for our covered bridge trek to Albany

Curator's Corner

by Mary Bryson

Quilts, Old and New, our fall exhibit at the Harlow House features nine quilts from the society's collection, as well as fifteen quilts borrowed from society members. One of the society's quilts is a mystery to Mary Bryson, curator. It is a crazy quilt that has not been properly catalogued. Draped across an antique ironing board, the quilt makes a colorful addition to the sewing room decor. If anyone knows who donated the quilt to the society or who made it when, please let Mary know. You can leave your name and information at 661-2164.

In addition to the colorful and lovingly cragged quilts, the fall display also features children's antique sewing machines, pin cushions, a child's antique ironing board and irons, and other sewing room collectibles loaned to us by member Ann Klinger.

Be sure to take the time to see the beautiful quilts and interesting sewing room items when you next tour the Harlow House.

A recent acquisition to the Harlow House is a cutaway jacket and vest donated by new member Mary Kuni. You can see the formal black jacket displayed in the upstairs bedroom.

An ongoing goal of the curator is to complete an up-to-date, accurate inventory of all the artifacts in our collection. It would be nice to have this completed by the end of the year 2000, but it is a huge task. Help in all shapes and sizes will be very much appreciated. If you can spare one day or even a couple of hours, please let Mary Bryson know. You can leave your name and number at the Harlow House, 661-2164.

Behind the Scene

by Becky Marcus,
Office Manger

Hi, I want to introduce myself to you. My name is Becky Marcus and I have come to work for you as your Office Manager. I jumped in with both feet as Jean Hybskmann was leaving for her winter trip. Hard shoes to fill, but I have put on my rubber boots and started wading in.

I am so excited to be working with this great group of dedicated people. Troutdale is such a wonderful city.

In case you aren't aware, the office is located upstairs at the Harlow House and is such a great place to work.

I bring to you many years of business administration so I feel the office will run smoothly for you. I will only be working part time so if you contact the office and don't get anyone, leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

We have already updated our phone system with GTE voice mail. The computer and software will be reviewed. All of this doesn't mean much to you other than knowing that your society is running smoothly and as efficiently as possible behind the scenes. I understand the search will continue for an executive director and once that position is filled we will be able to work even harder for the Troutdale Historical Society and our community.

I look forward to meeting or talking with you.

Again thank you for allowing me to assist you in running your society. You have certainly made me feel very welcome.

News from all over the place

At Harlow House: Curator Mary Bryson, a quilter herself, gathered quilts from our collection and from friends for our show; Quilts, Old and New, at the Harlow House.

It is a great relief to those who work in Harlow House, that the awful odor of something in the south wall has subsided. While we are constantly vigilant in our campaign against mice, it was the general opinion that something much bigger --an elephant, maybe -- had expired there.

A final coat of paint in our back porch volunteers' kitchen would be lovely. Any volunteers now that fall has arrived?

In the Barn: Jerry Hybskmann put our the plastic pipe in our old hamburger stand to good use, creating racks on which to hang our event signs in the shop. No matter how hard we tried to stack them neatly, they always turned into a big messy pile. This act of genius created a lot more floor space and our shop, thanks to Jerry, now has been put in order.

We are awaiting final work on our time line and hope that a dedication of both the shop and barn might occur at our Harlow House Christmas celebration.

At the Depot: A considerable effort by volunteers kept our depot open this summer, thus improving sales in our museum store. We would love to have our store and site open for the holidays. Any ideas?

Namedroppers

Thanks to **Paula Goldie** for seeing to our museum volunteers and crises during September while so many key people were gone..Welcome to **Terry and Sam Davis**, renewed members...**Mike Dubesa**, has volunteered to be a member of a feasibility committee to look at work on the depot...Workers and volunteers from **Multnomah Cable TV** came to the Harlow House in August for the second annual ice cream social. These folks have recorded our work for many years

Arata gave his name to Wood Village creek

Recently we received a request from the Multnomah County Education Service District asking information about S.A. Arata and his origins in Wood Village. (A building at the children's center adjacent to McMenamins Edgefield will be named for Arata Creek which flows through the site.) Since Wood Village lacks a historical society, we do that, aided in large measure by Corbett historians Chuck Rollins and Steve Lehl, who work for the City of Wood Village. Chuck and Steve began digging into history by bottle collecting which is how they learned about Arata.

Bottle collectors know quite a lot about Stephan Arata because he was a well-known Portland liquor dealer who made distinctive bottles with his name and insignia on them. Arata, came to what is now Wood Village to retire in 1910. His home is the care center at 238th Avenue and Halsey Street.

When Arata bought it, it was the Shaw farm. The Shaws, who would later settle in Fairview (another branch is linked to the St. Clairs who founded The Outlook) bought a 208-acre farm between Cleone (Fairview) and Troutdale about 1887, building a pretty farm house. George Shaw was a charter member of both the Fairview Masonic Lodge (in Troutdale) and Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church in Fairview.

Stephan Angelo Arata and his brothers, Joseph and Frank, owned early liquor businesses in Portland. Born in Italy, their family migrated to New York in 1870, where the boys grew up in Little Italy. Joseph was the first to come to Portland, probably about 1883, where he set up a store at First and Main, selling liquors, wines and cigars, and later, pastas, olives and olive oil. His brothers joined him later.

Ultimately, each brother would have his own business. Frank Arata lived until 1957 and his store was very well know for some 70 years in Portland.

Stephan formed S.A. Arata & Co., selling a wide variety of wine and liquors. He was described as "an extrovert, a fine salesman." In 1910, Angelo closed his business and retired to his home in Troutdale where he lived well into his 80s.

A Gresham Outlook article in 1911 told how the Arata Bros. installed electricity at the farm "in buildings and along roads." It also mentions that the former Shaw residence was remodeled into a mansion "of the colonial" type, richly and elegantly furnished.

Arata was childless, but briefly married to Della Hughes, sister of longtime Gresham mayor and physician, H.H. Hughes. That marriage ended in divorce. In 1926 Arata's wife, Bessie, died of burns at the age of 48 when a can of kerosene exploded as she



attempted to light a fire "in her country home Arata Station," according to a newspaper account.

Oregon Geographic Names notes that the Arata name was applied to station of the interurban railway station that then ran along Halsey Street, past the Multnomah County Farm to Troutdale.

Stephan Arata, was an alcoholic, according to an 1986 interview with Dave Angelo, Corbett, who worked for him. Though Arata was rumored to be a bootlegger, Angelo said, to his knowledge, that was not the case. In fact, Angelo, observed, when he wanted a bottle of bootleg, he had to go elsewhere for it.

Angelo said Arata did have a government supervised winery, and also grew wheat, endive and broccoli on 120 acres at the farm.

Stephan Arata sold his farm for government housing (Fairview Homes) and construction of the planned community of Wood Village during world war II.

"What a big money deal that was," Dave Angelo remembered. The Arata house, he recalled, was filled with "real expensive furniture and rugs."

Stephan Arata died May 3, 1948.



Our Oct. 30 trek to Albany promises to be a lovely day and a glorious evening. We'll leave Troutdale at 8:30 a.m. from the Harlow House museum for a trip to Albany where a tour guide leads us to covered bridges in the area.

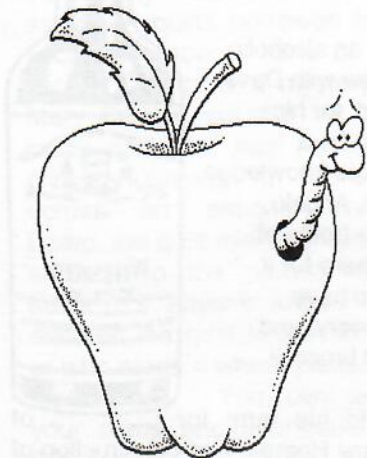
We will lunch in a country hall and return to Albany in the afternoon for a visit to downtown antique stores, or a rest in a hospitaity room provided to us. At 6:15 p.m., we will enjoy dinner theater, An Evening with Mark Twain, by Kirby Brumfield, well-known Portland actor.

Cost is \$85. That includes two meals, transportation, dinner theater and all tips to meal servers and bus driver.

Send name, address, phone number and check to Troutdale Historical Society, 104 S.E. Kibling St., Troutdale, OR, 97060, to secure your seat.

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Troutdale School Reunion Oct. 17

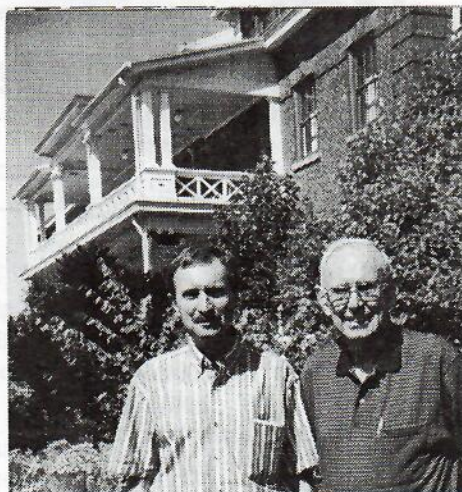
Hunting kin at the county poor farm.

It is a long way from Fort Smith Arkansas to the Multnomah County Poor Farm in Troutdale but Walter Newman, a retired weather forecaster, and his son, John, shown in the picture at right, made the trip in August.

The Oregon adventure is one in a series of odysseys they are making in their search for members of their family tree. Newman, who took up computers for purposes of genealogy only recently, tracked Troutdale Historical Society via the Internet while searching for his wife's grandfather, Carl Beuter.

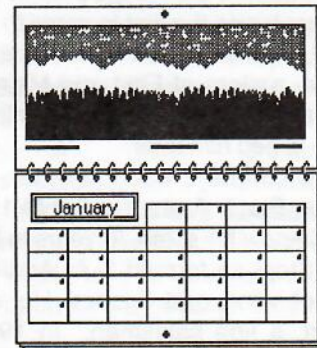
Beuter, a German immigrant, died of heart disease at Edgefield in 1918. His remains were cremated and apparently placed in a common grave at Lone Fir cemetery. The family previously lived in a logging community in Washington.

Newman not only found his relative on the Internet, but also ready Sharon Nesbit's Edgefield history and arranged to meet her at what is now McMenamins Edgefield on August 8 where



they sipped iced tea and she told the two what life was like for the poor farm inmates of 1918.

Such requests come to us often, and the first thing we do is send people to the Multnomah County archives, 2505 S.E. 11th, Portland, which has all the records of Edgefield patients. In the Newman case, cemetery historian Stan Clarke helped with locating the funeral home used for Beuter.



Greet 2000 with great calendar

Mary Bryson and Rebecca Beachell have created a beautiful new calendar, with sketches of Troutdale buildings.

It has been nearly 20 years since we produced a local Troutdale calendar and this one, with sketches of both new and old Troutdale buildings by Rebecca and text by Mary, is a beauty.

The calendars are \$10 each, or \$12, shipped to you.