

# Bygone Times



A Newsletter of The Troutdale Historical Society.

JUNE, 1988

EDITOR: Sharon Nesbit, 665-0423

## OUR 20TH ICE CREAM SOCIAL...

We have been doing this for 19 years -- this business of getting together each June to visit, listen to music and eat ice cream. It happens for the 20th time on Sunday, June 12 from noon to 4 p.m. in the Great Hall at Troutdale City Park.

Here are the things you can do. No. 1 -- Be there and bring your family. Dick Jones, known as DJ for short, will be our disc jockey playing a variety of golden oldies all afternoon. We will have a display of strawberry items from Hazel Webb, a plant sale, a bake sale and a craft fair. We will have mementos there of past socials.

No. 2 -- Put up the accompanying poster somewhere in your neighborhood or give it to a friend. No. 3 -- Bring plants, house plants, bedding plants, spare stuff that has spread through your garden for Cathy Hamme to sell. And bring a baked item for Dorothy Sturges to sell. No. 4 -- Give an hour of time. Call Sharon Nesbit, 665-0423, to volunteer to serve. No. 5 -- Come to the park Saturday, June 11, at 1 p.m. for an event we call pickin' and grinning'. Bring a bowl or a colander, a bouquet of flowers to decorate the tables and your favorite berry-cleaning tool.

This is our nicest party of the year...do join us.

## A BARN-RAISING...

In all probability, we will have a barn-raisin' this summer. The membership of the society voted May 23 to put up the shell of our museum barn, provided we can arrange for a loan of \$15,000.

The facts are these. We have about \$25,000 available to build the barn. To put up the shell and get it enclosed will cost \$40,000. Dave Traxler, our contractor, is willing to do it for us this summer at no profit to himself. As a result, the board and membership have decided to move ahead and begin construction contingent on getting a loan.

Once the shell is complete and paid off, it will take another \$40,000 to finish the inside of the barn. So our fundraising continues. We have received donations to the barn fund from Harold and Eleanor Bangs and Frank and Jeanie Driver. Dick Jones has made a model of the barn and Harlow House so we now know how it will look.

As to when the groundbreaking will occur, don't worry, we wouldn't dream of starting without you. We'll have some sort of barn-raising ceremony and you will be notified of a time and date.

## COMING EVENTS...

Though you will receive mailings throughout the summer, your newsletter normally takes a vacation in July and August. Here are some events to keep in mind. On July 16 we have our city picnic and parade. Cathy Hamme is working out details of a float promoting our barn. We will be selling hamburgers topped with fried onions at our booth.

The Troutdale Windjam (we are selling tickets for the salmon or chicken barbecue) takes place July 31. On August 20 we go for a train ride. See the next page for more information. Our pie sale and fall walking history tour will take place Sept. 18. And the annual Troutdale school reunion will be October 16.

ALL ABOARD AUGUST 20...

On August 20, we will take a ride on the Mount Hood Railway. A ticket for the bus ride to Hood River, a visit to the Hood River museum and a ride on the historic train is \$20 a person. You can buy them at the ice cream social or the picnic or you can order them by sending your check, made out to the Troutdale Historical Society, to Gene Bui, chairman, 340 S.W. Halsey Loop, Troutdale, 97060. His phone number is 667-3231.

The bus will begin loading at Troutdale City hall at 9 a.m. and depart at 9:30. On arriving at Hood River we will have a special tour of the county museum. The train ride, which lasts about two hours, departs shortly after noon. You may bring a sack lunch or buy a sandwich on the train. After that we will head home, but if we know Sam Cox, we will probably stop somewhere for ice cream.

WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU AWARDS...

Four people won special awards at our May 22 joint potluck dinner with the Fairview Rockwood Wilkes Historical Society.

Jean Holman and Dorothy Sturges were both named members of the year. Those two have played major roles in every ice cream social, Harlow House Christmas and dozens of other events through the years.

In addition, we gave a plaque, a picture of the Harlow House with a silver engraved plate attached, to Glenn Otto to recognize him as the founder of the society. And we gave a similar plaque to Kim Brewer who served three years as our Harlow House caretaker.

SUMMER MUSEUM HOURS...

Through September, the depot museum will be open every Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

Through June, the Harlow House will be open each Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

Beginning July 6, however, we launch our an effort we have long dreamed of. The Harlow House will be open five days a week, from 12:30 to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sundays. This is possible because we have contracted with Cynthia Howe, an experienced museum professional, to open our museum for us during the week. On Sundays, volunteers Virginia Murphy, Dorothy Larson, Cathy Hamme and Sharon Nesbit will greet visitors.

The depot, of course, is staffed by all volunteers. Our thanks go to all of you for your efforts in keeping Troutdale's museums open.

COLLECTOR'S FAIR...

About 200 people came to our Collector's Fair on May 22 and we made a profit of \$385, which will go toward the cost of keeping the Harlow House open this summer.

Special thanks to our collectors, already recognized in an earlier newsletter, for their help. Just toting in their stuff and setting it up was a prodigious effort. And thanks to Jackie Buroker, Betty Chisum and Bette Hayes who evaluated the antiques and collectibles brought by our visitors.

Dorothy Sturges was in charge of the food service. Ted Schulte, Bob Sturges and Dick Jones sold tickets. Cathy Hamme, Martha Booheister, and Pat Graham worked in the kitchen. Rankin Davis, Sam Cox, Alex Jones, Chad Riley, Sadie Riley, Arman Kluehe and Donna Kluehe helped set up. Bob Dunken brought a delegation of Horseless Carriage Association members and their cars. Donna Johnston, Carole Klinger, Kay Foetisch, Pam Christian and Helen Redden waited tables. Teresa Kasner made elegant hand-lettered signs. Many of the aforementioned also brought wonderful desserts. Others who cooked up fine sweet things were: Bobby Armstrong, Florence Baker, Sue Davis, Nancy Cox, Vera Strebin, and Marie Stone.

CAUGHT PLANTING FLOWERS AGAIN...

If you watch closely each spring you can catch Alex Jones in the act of "vandalizing" the Troutdale Rail Depot museum. He sneaks up to the front door of the depot and plants marigolds there each year. Then he sneaks back each day to water them.

The sight of those gold flowers in front of the red depot is a welcome one. Thank you, Alex, for all you do.

HISTORICAL TIDBITS...

Make sure to visit the Rivers Bar and Grill in Troutdale, once called the Sandy Flats. (Or those of you even older will remember it as Mack's Hotel.) Whatever the name, it has been remodeled by new owners who have purchased historical pictures from our society.

Go in and take a look around. And have a bite to eat.

Also, the latest edition of InUNISON magazine has a story written by Sharon Nesbit about Troutdale's two women mayors, Clara Larrison and Laura Harlow.

Speaking of the Harlows, our rotating exhibit in the Harlow House in August will be material on the Harlow family. Faye Harlow donated two family christening dresses. We will have many other items as well.

HISTORY THAT IS WRITTEN...

The latest Troutdale Historical Society member to take pen in hand and write down a bit of history is Jim Cook. Cook, whose father owned the Sandy River Service Station down near the park, recently donated the family radio set to the society.

He writes the following details about the three-piece radio:

As to the radio used by my folks at the Troutdale Garage, this was one of the first all over band radios in Troutdale around 1927 or 1928 as close as I can remember.

I know that every so often, the mayor, Aaron Fox, Milo Coons, Dad, and a couple others seemed to have an urgent meeting (in front of that radio) about baseball time. Must have been research.

About the three pieces that make up the one radio. One piece about 6x20x14 inches is the tuning receiver with tubes and coils. The second piece, which looks like a metal encased battery is the variable power supply that let you use 110 volts and then steps it down, as I understand it, to get the right voltage needed to run this radio.

The third piece is round and mounted on a stand and is the speaker and a collector's item, too, because the diaphragm is made of mahogany so thin and delicate that it will vibrate perfectly reproducing sounds as broadcast from the microphone at the broadcasting station. These days all the diaphragms in speakers are made of cardboard that can be molded quite easily and a few are made of plastic.

RECENT GIFTS...

Glenn and Helen Otto donated an autographed copy of Ed Culp's new book, "Early Oregon Days," a collection of photos of Oregon's first railroad and interurban trains...Ethel Peterson donated a souvenir booklet about the Columbia River Highway that she bought soon after moving here in the 1940s...Lewis Carroll donated a set of handmade logging tongs, an early electric iron and an early electric vacuum cleaner...Lydia Waldo, daughter-in-law of Irene Douglass Waldo, sent a 1974 tape recording of Irene for our oral history collection...Lucile Crouser has given us a set of the children's history textbooks she wrote for use by other educators.

## TOUR TIME...

Spring is a popular time for special tours of the Harlow House. Sharon Nesbit will lead two school tours June 1 and June 9. If you would like to tag along to see how children respond to our museums, give her a call for times and places.

Cathy Hamme took the Shovel and Hoe Garden Club through the Harlow House on May 24. Myrta and Harold Weatherhead and family members made a special visit to the house May 1. Alex Jones showed them through.

## NEW MEMBERS...

New members to our society are Joan Clare and John and Nancy Kordosky, Troutdale, and Evelyn DeYoung, Gresham.

If you are feeling great remorse because you have not paid your dues, now is a good time because we will be cleaning out the mailing list this summer. If you want to continue to receive your newsletter, send \$3 and your name, address and telephone number to Troutdale Historical Society, 104 S.E. Kibling St., Troutdale, Ore. 97060.

## ITEMS WE COULD USE...

As we will have someone working at the Harlow House on a regular basis this summer we need a donated desk. It should not be too large as it has to be moved upstairs to the former caretaker's quarters. We could use, as well, a typing stand and an office chair, in addition to the sorts of things one uses at a desk, staplers, tape dispensers, etc.

If you can help, give us a call.

Also, we could use some help from someone who sews in making new cotton covers for the cushions on our porch furniture.

## NAMES IN THE NEWS...

ARLINE SEIDL, who has donated many artifacts to this society, recently fell and broke her hip. She is recovering at home...IG WAND is also getting well after surgery and is still figuring out who all the fellows are in a photo of Bissinger Wool Pullery employees that we have in our files...When you make lists, you always leave somebody out and we did that on Page Two in regard to the Collector's Fair. CATHY GILMORE, a new member, was one of those who baked desserts...As you drive by the Harlow House these days be sure to stop and see CATHY HAMME'S wild flower garden at the rear of the house. It is just now starting to bloom...HOMER LUMSDEN has promised to sit still for a live history interview at our November meeting...ETHEL PETERSON will be moving soon to Klamath Falls where she will live with her daughter ALICE FULLER...GINA HELD is in a new residence at 20606 NE Interlachen Lane, Troutdale...Another barn donation has come to us from D & D BENNETT, INC., the firm that operates in the old wool pullery and that is building the factory outlet center in Troutdale...LORI CALLISTER will help us prepare a professional brochure telling about our museum barn and our plans for it...CAROLE BAKER KLINGER picked a good time to come to our potluck on May 22 because many of the reminiscences about Fairview dealt with her father's restaurant, Baker's Beanery, "Capacity 1500, 15 at a time." BOB STURGES remembered that Baker never served water because he couldn't make any money off of it and when people asked for it, he served it in a dribble glass...BILL ELLIOTT entertained at the potluck, which drew about 60 people and a fantastic assortment of food...This newsletter happens each month because MARY EATON prints it and JOYCE STOECKEL prepares it and mails it.