



# Bygone Times

Newsletter of the

*Troutdale Historical Society*

April 2010

## Mark Your Calendars!

**Oral History with  
Vern Rathman  
Annual Business  
Meeting and election of  
officers.**

April 18 - 2 p.m.  
Troutdale City Hall

**First Friday at the Depot  
May 7th 5-8 p.m.**

Artists, Music & Wine  
Tasting with Farmers'  
Market Vendors

**May 7th 6:30 p.m.  
Dedication of the  
Centennial Arch  
Under the Arch**

**Cemetery Tour  
Hood River & Beyond  
May 22**

Leave Barn Museum 9 a.m.  
Cost: \$10 per person

**SAVE THE DATE!  
August 7th  
Salmon Bake on the  
Sandy River. More in  
coming issues of the  
Bygone Times**

## Troutdale Historical Society Presents: Oral History with Vern Rathman

Vern Rathman was pretty much shanghaied to be mayor of Troutdale in 1959.

"They called up one day and asked me if I'd come to the council meeting," he remembers, and therein lies the story he will tell in our interview with the former mayor in front of a live audience at 2 p.m., Sunday, April 18, in Troutdale City Hall.

Rathman, a retired excavating contractor, played his part in Troutdale, as mayor, as builder of a landmark water tower (a legacy that is now underground) as a member of the planning commission and back to the days when he grew up in Troutdale. His comments on his education in Troutdale schools — the most he would ever get — will warm the heart of any taxpayer.

Recently widowed, Rathman and his late wife, Martine, helped found the Windy Whirlers who cut a rug in Troutdale City Hall. His stories are fun and his memory is on the money. Be there for the interview by Sharon Nesbit. It will be taped and the DVD will be sold. Troutdale has been fortunate in having a historical society focused on recording oral histories of our mayors, leaders and community members. It is a record to be proud of and we are happy to be adding Vern's story to the list.



This is our anniversary meeting, celebration of our funding, and election of officers. Member of the year will also be announced.

For more information please call Troutdale Historical Society at 503-661-2164.

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## 2 The Director's Chair

The Arch is UP!!!

It was such an exciting day after all the hoops and loops the Arch history had taken even before it came to Troutdale. The weather was perfect, the crowd was great and the helicopters flew overhead. I have to admit I cried when I drove under it the next morning for the first time. It is awesome!

We are gearing up for a busy year with Oral His-

tory this month, cemetery tour in May and August is really going to be busy, busy, busy. The Salmon Bake is scheduled for August 7<sup>th</sup> at Bob & Jean Ice's on Jackson Park Rd.

Thanks to **Paula Goldie** for volunteering to get the items together for the time capsule on the Arch...thanks to **Karen Jordan** and **Carol Lacoste** for the never end-

ing job of clipping the newspapers for anything Troutdale related. Thanks as always to the **Tuesday Ladies; Jean Holman, Mona Mitchoff, Heather Mitchoff, Penny Balch, Judy Norby and Barbara Welsh** for decorating and cleaning Harlow House and Barn Museums and helping with the newsletters. Mary & Dennis Bryson and Jean & Jerry

by Terry Huston

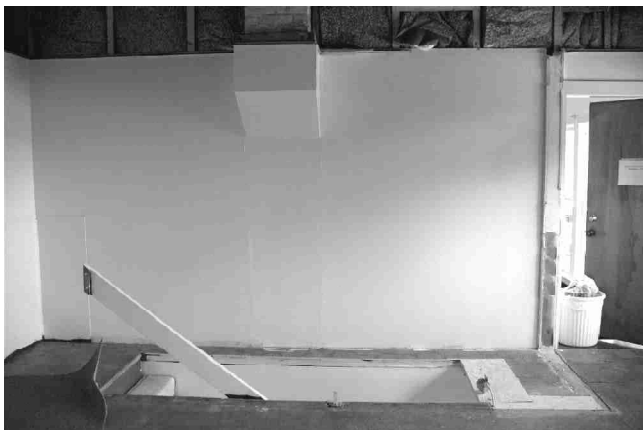
Hybskman are MIA somewhere in the Arizona desert soaking up the sun

Thanks to **Sharon Nesbit** for working for me last Saturday so I could have my birthday off with my grandkids and to Christine Smith, our former office assistant, for coming back to volunteer in the office...Life is good!

Terry

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## Store during renovation and now. Come check it out!



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### Thank you to our member donations:

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Please call the office, 503-661-2164, if you would like to use your credit/debit card to pay for dues, raffle tickets, donations or in memory contributions! Tuesday-Friday 8-11:30 a.m. and Saturday 10-2.

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**We are still selling raffle tickets for the Quilt! The tickets are \$2 each, 3 for \$5, 7 for \$10 or 15 for \$20.**

**Mail a check to THS 104 SE Kibling St. Troutdale, OR 97060 or call the office at 503-661-2164 to put them on your debit or credit card.**

**Tickets will also be available at April's program meeting at Troutdale City Hall.**

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**Len Otto**  
503-663-0794  
Len@HonorYourPast.com

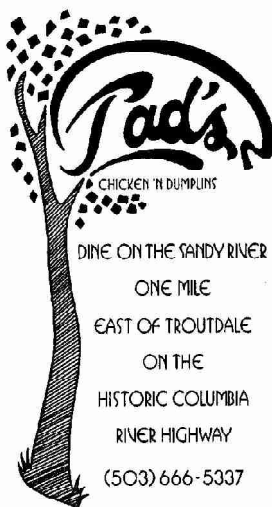
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Thanks from THS for your Support

**Here is the outline for the May 22 Cemetery Tour ~ Cost \$10 per person  
Bus will leave the Barn Museum at 9:00 a.m.  
Bring sack lunch and drink.**

**Stop 1 - Cascade Locks Cemetery started in 1875.**

**Stop 2 - Senior Center in Hood River. Refreshment break and bus parking. Walk across street to St. Mary's Cemetery started in 1875 and Mountain View Memorial also started in the 1870's.**

**Stop 3 - Idlewild Cemetery started in 1894.**

**Stop 4 - Western Antique Aeroplane & Automobile Museum. \$12.00 admission. 65 and over \$10.00. There is a two for one coupon in the Entertainment Book. If you don't want to visit the museum, you can wander and return to the bus when we are ready to leave.**

**We will lunch where we find a good spot at the right time!**

**A special thank you to John Gerbish at Gresham Memorial Chapel for his sponsorship of this event!**

### **Don Bogh**

Long time member Don Bogh, a Realtor who operated from a little log house on Northeast 182nd Ave., died March 16, at the age of 91. He and his wife, Jo, were regulars at many of our events. Don was born

in Ringsted, Iowa, to Christian and Katherine (Kling) Bogh, the youngest of eight children.

Don served his country in the U.S. Air Force during World War II. Don worked in construction before being a longtime real estate broker in the Portland

area. Don was deeply involved in politics. He campaigned for John and Robert Kennedy, was a delegate representative at the Democratic National Convention and was on the citizen action committee for the East Portland Police Department and the

Multnomah County Planning Committee.

Don was a Gateway Booster, a member of the Portland Rotary, Elks, Moose and Toastmaster organizations, on the Portland Board of Realtors and was past president of the Danish Brotherhood.

### **Bernard Garthe Brown**

A long ago Troutdale resident, Bernard Garthe Brown, 95, died March 11, 2010. He was born in 1914. His Oregonian obituary recently mentioned, "Everyone who knew him knew he was most fond of the time he spent on the family farm in Troutdale on the Sandy River (now known as Lewis and Clark State Park)". The rest of the obituary notes: He also shared many summers in Warren, Idaho, on Brown Mountain where his father,

Frank H. Brown, spent many years mining for gold.

He attended Troutdale Grade School and graduated from Gresham High School. Shortly after graduating from high school his father died and Garthe, at age 16, proceeded to support his mother, Caroline M. Wagbo Brown, and his sister, Eileen M Brown, who passed in 2003. It was a difficult time in our nation's economy and the hard work in the jobs he took to provide for his family helped him develop his strong work ethic. He wanted so much

to serve his country but was unable to do so due to severe asthma.

He proudly joined the 3C's (Civilian Conservation Corps) and worked in Gold Beach on various forestry projects. After this he started to work for Montgomery Ward's on Vaughn Street. While he was working here he decided to pursue a career in law. He worked days at Ward's and went to night school at the Sherlock Building which later became Northwest School of Law, now Lewis & Clark Law School. He

graduated in 1941. While still working at Ward's and working part time as an attorney, he met the love of his life, Grace L. Stowaser.

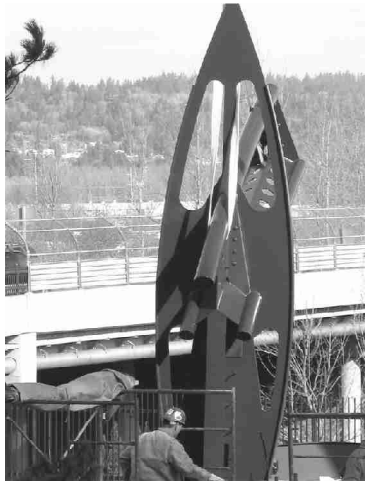
In 1943, he joined Robert Jacob and Randall Jones and become a partner in the firm Jacob, Jones and Brown. He married Grace in April 1944 and they lived happily for 64 years until her passing in May 2008. During their marriage they had two children: Robert Stuart who died in January 2003 and Caroline Zona Stutevoss, who survives him.

# We Dit It!!!

7 ft Trout by Rip Caswell



THS Photo



THS Photo

First piece goes up

With a little  
help from  
our friends!

Photo by Charlie Warren



Sue & Greg Handy  
at the Arch site  
on arrival day

THS Photo



## Thoughts on the Arch

From Sharon Nesbit

It was an absolutely grand day when the Centennial Arch went up in Troutdale on March 16. The Gresham Outlook carried a picture of David Ripma, Sheryl Maydew and Terry Huston standing near the arch, with Paula Goldie taking the picture. (Paula is our board member in charge of preparing the items for the time capsule that goes in the arch's base.)

First, the arch project just kept getting bigger every time someone looked at

it. So it took the diligence of two mayors and two city councils to keep it running. We also should thank Max and Sheryl Maydew for staying on task to make it work, though the truth is Max had just too much fun building the arch to think of it as work. Paul Thalsofer and Dave Ripma stayed on the project, and Terry Huston set out to seek donations from school children — both grade schools came up with more than a \$1,000 apiece — and that proved to be kind of 'insurance' that the arch would be built.

As City Councilor

Matt Wand said, "When we voted to borrow the money to keep the arch going, a fellow criticized me for that and I said, 'If you want to gather up all those coins the school children collected and take them back to them at the schools, I'll be right behind you.'"

The cry of "It fits," when the center span went into place and the outburst of applause was a real thrill on that day. Rip Caswell's lovely rainbow trout really do have rainbows on them, and, though the arch's wording is aimed at people traveling east, Len Otto ob-

served that after you pass through it eastbound and look in your rearview mirror, "It still reads right." But my favorite comment was from Mark Garber, publisher of the Gresham Outlook, who described the project as bold, and Troutdale as "somewhat eccentric."

I take issue with "somewhat." Troutdale has always marched to a different drummer and held itself to be a unique town. The arch is a grand gesture made in hard times, and a sign of hope for the next century.



Troutdale Historical Society  
104 SE Kibling St.  
Troutdale, OR 97060  
Phone 503-661-2164  
[www.troutdalehistory.org](http://www.troutdalehistory.org)

### **Mission Statement:**

To gather, preserve and make available material relating to the history of the community of Troutdale, the Sandy River, the Columbia River Gorge and nearby area: To stimulate interest in, and knowledge of, the locality's past.

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### **Thank you for your donations:**

#### **In Memory of Rodger Nearhoff**

(Rodger is Sharon Nesbit's Step-Father)  
Penny Balch

#### **In Memory of Martine Rathman**

Lenora Handy  
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#### **In Memory of Edna Ellis**

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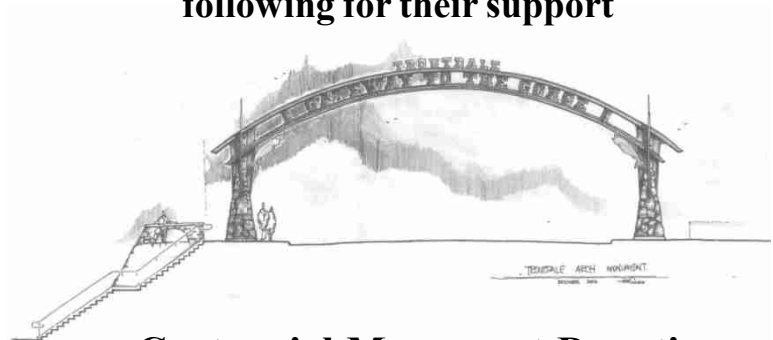
#### **In Memory of Hazel Lunday**

Lenora Handy

#### **In Memory of Florence Baker**

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### **Our Thanks...from THS...to the following for their support**



### **Centennial Monument Donations:**

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