

# Bygone Times

Newsletter of the

*Troutdale Historical Society*

November 2007

## Please Mark Your Calendars

### Nov 18

Clarence Mershon discusses farming in the area.

From the start of the celery business to shipping cabbage with ice as early as 1913, to the contributions that Troutdale farmers made to the war effort in WWII and the gladiolas. This will be an interesting program.

**Troutdale City Hall 2 p.m.**

### Dec 1

Christmas Open House at Harlow House 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come have your picture taken with **Santa** and have some hot cider.

### We need your help!

We have been getting a large amount of emails bounced back to us. If you have changed your email address in the past few months, please call us with your new one or send an email to [info@troutdalehistory.org](mailto:info@troutdalehistory.org) so we can update our files. If you are not receiving our newsletter by email and would prefer it, let us know that also. **Thanks!**

## The Depot is Painted



A much awaited and debated change has taken place at the Depot Museum.

We wanted the color as close as possible to the color it was when built in 1907, since this year is Troutdale's 100th Birthday. The problem, there was no real way to find out what the original color used to be.

It was decided to paint it a three-tone gold like the Canby Depot as a close compromise to the 1930's colors of "Goldenrod" with brown trim.

When the painters arrived and started burning (that makes one nervous on a 100 year-old building) off the old paint it was discovered that the original color was indeed grey.

The contractor was awesome and since he had not already ordered the paint, he wanted to make us happy and agreed to paint the Depot the original color. He also had his crew wash all the windows when they were done.

**Thanks to Clyde and the city crew that helped so much in this process!**

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## 2 From the Director's Chair

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by Terry Huston

WHEW! It is good to have October behind us. It was an incredibly busy month here at THS. I can not even begin to thank everyone who helped with the Barn Museum Opening, the Birthday Party, the Museum Round Robin and the Museum Forum (see story below). You all know who you are, so thank you, thank you, and thank you!

There are some unique volunteer opportunities available for anyone who might be interested. We need someone to come in to the Depot one day a week to organize our scrapbook materials and get everything into scrap books. (There are several years worth of stuff, so this is a big job and more than enough to share with more than one person). Also, does anyone do wallpaper? It is not a big job, just a tree border around the top of the Depot store as background for our train that will be up by Thanksgiving.

ing. Let me know so I can order the paper.

Now that the business is out of the way, I have a little story to tell. Heather and I were leaving the Depot one day at 4:00 when a man and two children came up on the porch. The kids faces fell when they thought they would not be able to come into the Depot, so I turned off the alarm and let them come in.

As it turns out, the family was moving to Hawaii the next week and their father told them they could do anything they wanted the last week they were here. They chose our depot and caboose as their number one destination.

After the family had spent quite sometime in the depot, the kids wanted to go out to see *Bruce*. I asked them "Who is Bruce?" They answered "Bruce the Caboose." It seems that they had visited our caboose so

much that they made up a story about our caboose

Bruce's twin brother, it seems they were separated at birth, is out off of Powell Valley Road at a local nursery. They told me Bruce has had many adventure. I asked them to get in touch with me when they get settled in Hawaii so I can keep them posted on what Bruce is doing.

They seemed to think that was a really good idea. I guess the moral of the story is that our museums do matter and it is important to keep them open for people to see.

Most "small" towns do not have one musuem. We have three treasures here at Troutdale Historical Society and need to be able to have them open and share them with the community.



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## Museum Forum Networks THS with other Historical Societies

Seven local historical societies were represented at a museum forum that was held on October 20<sup>th</sup> at the General Store in Troutdale. The purpose of the forum is to promote each others activities, share fund raising ideas, to address the issues of volunteers and how to attract new members.

In society today, a lot of people do not live in the towns and neighborhoods where they grew up and it is hard to get them involved in the local history. This not just a Troutdale issue, it is a universal issue.

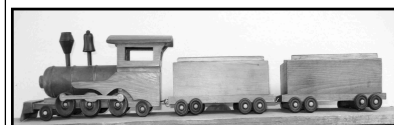
The group, tentatively called the *Tri-County Heritage Council*, will meet again on March 1, 2008 at the

Sandy Historical Society's new museum.

Those in attendance at the October meeting were: **Joanna Klick, Jo Curry and Bob Edwards** from the David Douglas Historical Society; **Sandy Cartisser, Chuck Rollins and Steve Lehl** from the Crown Point Country Historical Society; **Ann Marie Amstad** from the Sandy Historical Society; **Pat Stone, Utahna Kerr, Bonnie Jepsen and Jack Horner** from the Gresham Historical Society; **Nancy Hoover** from the Fairview/Rockwood/Wilkes Historical Society; **Nelli Hjalatalin** from Hood River Historical Society and **Terry Huston** from the Troutdale Historical Society.

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### End of the Line Store in the Depot



Christmas Special!  
25 Inch  
3-piece wooden  
train  
Only 6 left  
\$20.00

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# Museum Round Robin was a blast! <sup>3</sup>

## (from the past)

Who likes museums better than the people who run museums?

That was the concept behind the Oct. 13 Round Robin Museum tour and we ended up with 32 museum fanciers (many of them, people who help run other museums and historical societies in our area) on an all-day tour.

We began at our Troutdale barn, moved up to Springdale to see the Charles Post art exhibit, then took the back road through Aims and Bull Run in glorious fall leaves to see the brand new museum of the Sandy Historical Society. We had lunch there, with coffee deserts and hot cider provided by our Sandy neighbors.

Then we set out for Gresham to learn about the plans and goals of the Gresham Historical Society. We especially liked their new exhibit for kids linking old

technology and new technology.

After that we went to the Fairview-Rockwood-Wilkes' Zimmerman House for a tour and many ohs and ahhs, returning to the depot for a very happy and safe landing.

We learned some of the problems our neighbor museums face. We learned that we have many issues in common. And we learned bits and pieces of history of the surrounding area that will make us better interpreters in our own communities.

The event was so much fun,



that 20 some people (who saw us on this tour) have already signed up for another Round Robin sometime in April to tour a group of different museums in the area.

Watch for more info here in the newsletter after the first of the year, you won't want to miss it.

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## Centennial Celebration Postcards are Here!



**We have the Centennial Celebration postcards available at the Depot store for \$1. There were only 1000 of them printed and less than half of those are left for sale. The proceeds go to the Centennial Arch Fund. Come in and buy several to include with your Christmas cards this year!**

# Barn Museum Grand Opening Week

**T**he Troutdale Historical Society re-opened the Barn Museum on October 2, 2007, with the new exhibit, *What Went By*. The official ribbon cutting took place at 9 a.m. with Troutdale Mayor Paul Thalhoffer, Janette Medina (winner of the student essay contest who actually cut the ribbon), about 100 students from Sweetbriar and other guests in attendance.

Four of our area schools made reservations to visit the new exhibit on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday of that week, more than 500 total. In addition to Sweetbriar, students came from Troutdale Elementary, Fairview Elementary and for the first time, history students from Reynolds High School.

Of course, an event this size can not happen without the volunteers who helped at the museums on those days. A HUGE thank you to **Ray Davenport, Jean Hybskmann, Mario Ayala, Scott & Eileen Cunningham, Jean Holman, Mona Mitchoff, Sharon Nesbit, Len Otto, Dorothy Sturgess, Florence Baker and Barbara Welsh**. A Really Big thank you to **Heather** who kept things under control at the Depot through all the madness.

On Tuesday, there were three vintage cars at the ribbon cutting ceremony. One of the cars returned on Wednesday along with a blacksmith who wowed the kids from Troutdale Elementary with how they used to make nails. The Blacksmith, Gary Lewis, is a volunteer at Fort Vancouver and just happened to be driving by on Tuesday and stopped to see what was going on. He then offered to come set up his equipment

**Frank & Laura Hurley brought their 100 year old, 1907 Carter Car to the Grand Opening and gave rides to about 90 students and teachers.**



**Janette Madina cutting the ribbon at the Barn Museum Grand Opening. Medina is from Troutdale Elementary and was chosen from a drawing of all students who wrote essays in honor of Troutdale's 100 birthday.**

**Tim Geltmann (L) and Joe Bonagofski (R) are both retired from the railroad. They added a lot to the day by being at the caboose and answering questions for the students that visited the Rail Depot Museum as part of the grand opening**

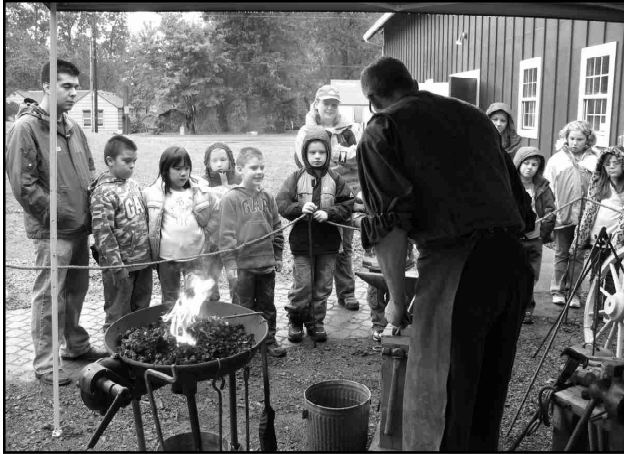


**A Big THANKS to Keith Townsend for bringing his 1915 Ford Model T Runabout to the museum opening on Tuesday and Wednesday. Keith is an education assistant at Kelly Creek School.**

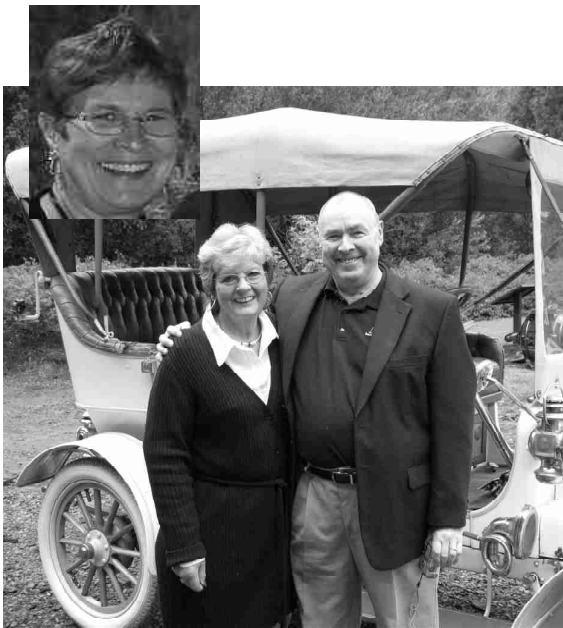
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# Attended by more than 500

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**Gary Lewis, blacksmith, WOWED! the kids at the museum opening. He showed them how to make nails and how to make and shape horseshoes.**



**Ray Davenport, Jean Hybskmann and Mary Bryson are the Exhibit Committee who put the exhibit together (with some major help from Len Otto on the slidehow). Great Job! Mary and Dennis were on the road and were unable to attend the opening.**



**Students were taken for rides on Tuesday in the Vintage cars. This is a 1913 Model T Depot Hack owned by Pat & Clara Nash of Oregon City.**

on Wednesday for the second day of the museum opening. He was a big hit with the kids.

Both days the students also visited the Harlow House and the Rail Depot Museums on their fieldtrip. This is the first time we have been honored to have two gentlemen, retired from Union Pacific, to attend an event and answer questions and talk to the students about life on the railroad. A big thank you to **Tim Geltmann** and **Joe Bonagofski** for being a great addition to our event. Also, a big thank you to **Matt and Anne Wand** who donated cookies for the first two days of the event for all the kids. That was a lot of cookies and they were a real plus for the students.

This exhibit at the barn which focuses on Troutdale's 100 year history, opened on Troutdale's actual 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The majority of the exhibit is composed of vintage photos illustrating the influences the Columbia and Sandy rivers, the Historic Columbia River Highway, the airport, and the railroad had on Troutdale's growth through the century.

In addition to the photos, people will enjoy two new murals painted by local artist Kathy Allegri, a display of antique farm implements, a horse drawn buggy, and a very special slide show comprised of over 200 photos from the historical society's extensive photo collection. Copies of the slide show, put together with hundreds of hours of work from Len Otto, are available for sale at the barn and at the Rail Depot Store for \$15.00.

Also the timeline exhibit, *Troutdale: It's about Time* will be re-installed with the addition of a soundtrack.

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# <sup>6</sup> Never Underestimate the Power of a Tall Tale

by Sharon Nesbit

After years of work collecting our history, of making sure it is right, and of writing it down, Troutdale's most persistent legend surfaced in the middle of our centennial birthday party Oct. 6, when a man who claimed to be the leader of historical tours, interrupted the booksigning asking for information on "a shanghai tunnel out of a brewery" in Troutdale. Told that the story was untrue, he persisted.

For the record, most Portland historians now question claims of "crimping" or "shanghai" tunnels in Portland along the Willamette waterfront, events where victims were drugged and then dumped aboard a ship, waking up miles out to sea to find themselves unwilling members of a crew. But if such events happened, Portland with its deepwater port is certainly the likely place.

The notion persists that the basement of the Weinhard Building, Troutdale's first brick building, (which burned in 2002) was the scene

of similar activity. If true, it would be a delicious story, but from a practical standpoint, it just doesn't work. First the building was never a brewery. It was built in 1907 as an investment by the estate of the Weinhard family, which did own a brewery in Portland, but not in Troutdale.

Happily for Troutdale, the Weinhard building was the city's first brick building, built with all the amenities you would find in the city, business offices on the ground floor, hotel rooms on the top floor, and a finished brick basement for storage with freight loading access and glass block skylights in the sidewalk out front. Further, it had a sewer (high tech for its day) draining the building's waste into the Sandy River. That drain drew the attention of state authorities in the 1970s and forced the construction of a Troutdale sewer treatment plant.

The idea of using a small sewer to haul helpless victims to the Sandy

River begins to strain credibility. It gets even more far-fetched if you realize that a kidnapper would then have to load his unconscious victim aboard a boat and row him out the Sandy, down the Columbia, and into the Willamette before he could find a ship where he might make a deal. Further, the date of Troutdale's building (1907) is past the time when such events were thought to occur.


Our town has had a lot of rough and tumble activity that colors our history, without going to the bother of making it up. Our saloons were legendary in their day. Our jails were frequently full. Our bootleggers were pretty darned good. Even a former mayor was once arrested by the county sheriff.

**You will find it all in the Centennial history "*It Could Have Been Carpdale*," available at the Depot Store.**


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**We need volunteers! Can you give us 3 hours a month<sup>7</sup> at one of the museums? Call Adrienne at 503-665-5288.**

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## **Jerry LaCoste won a prize and caught a fish!**



**Jerry & Brett LaCoste with sturgeon they caught.**

Jerry LaCoste was the winner of the Grand prize in a drawing held during THS Ice Cream Social this past July. The prize was a \$300 all-day fishing trip for two on the Columbia River.

Jerry and his son, Brett LaCoste were able to schedule the trip and went out on Oct. 7. and caught some really nice sturgeon. Thanks for sharing the picture, Jerry!

Jerry and his wife Carol are THS members.

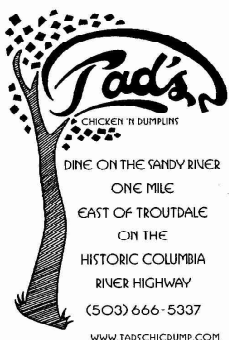
The trip was donated by Dan Kreamier, Jr. of Dan's Fishin' Mission Adventures in Fairview and partially sponsored by Oregon First Community Credit Union also in Fairview.

**There are two books missing from the Lewis & Clark book collection that was on display in the Barn. If you borrowed volume 1 or 12, please return them to the Depot so they can be catalogued into our collection. Thanks!**

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**When you see them, please say thank you!**

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### **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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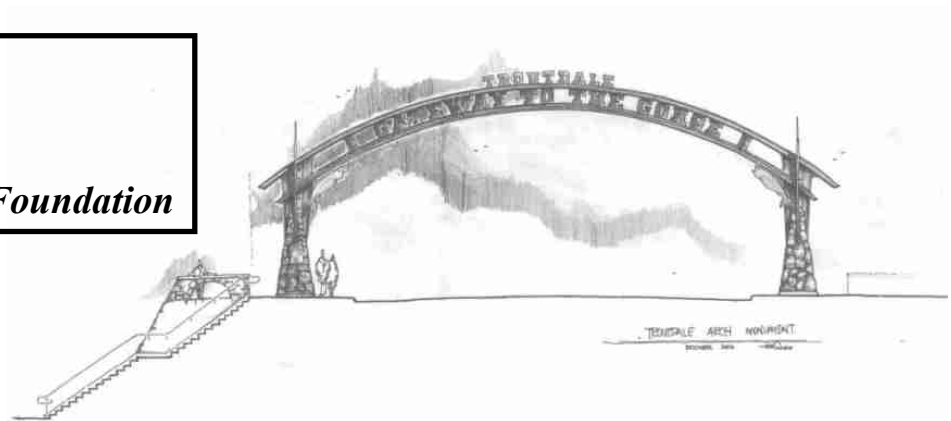
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