

Bygone Times

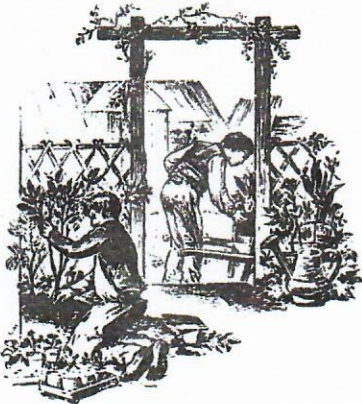
Newsletter of The Troutdale Historical Society.



AUGUST, 1992

EDITOR SHARON NESBIT, 665-0423

BUSY, CRAZY DAYS OF SUMMER...



These should be the lazy, crazy days of summer, but we in the museum business know better. Summer is time to show our stuff to visitors and we are doing that five days a week.

Our Harlow House museum is open this summer and in the management of host ELLEN BROTHERS. Ellen is paid for hosting the museum four days a week, but is due our thanks for agreeing to take the job at the last minute.

The Harlow House is open Wednesday through Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. and Sundays, from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday volunteer hosts are: MARY HUGHES, DONNA HAWKINS, FLORENCE BAKER, LYNDA HARVEY and HEIDI WILSON

At the rail depot, open each Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m., our volunteer hosts are: CLARK & BESSIE CARNEY, PETER & RITA GIANCONE, EVELYN JACOBSON, MARTHA BOOHEISTER, STEVE & JUDY LEHL, BUS & DONNA GIBSON, LILY DICKINSON & JOHN GRIMM, HAROLD & ELEANOR BANGS, BONITA JENKINS, SHARON NESBIT and WILLIAM SULLIVAN.

We recently retired our first depot guest book, which we have had since the depot opened in 1975. We started out modestly in those first years with a couple dozen visitors a year. Now our summer guests number about 500 a year. We have greeted almost 4,000 visitors at the rail depot since it opened. (Those are just the people who signed the guest book. Non-signers would make that number substantially higher.) We think the numbers are pretty good for a museum open only on summer weekends. Thanks to all who make it happen.

SO, HOW DID WE DO?...

Our June 13 and 14 ice cream social, chaired by NANCY COLLINS, and staffed by more than 100 volunteers, was the biggest and most profitable ever. We made \$3,417.81 and served 1,340 visitors. Congratulations to CATHY HAMME and thanks to KAZ & HELEN TAMURA, because our plant sale brought in \$829.15. Our sponsors, WALSH & SONS TRUCKING and EDWIN O. EGE INC., brought us music both days. TOWNSEND and JIM FUJII farms gave us berries.

For the first time, we offered children's events. Thanks to COLLEEN BERRY and her family members for working in all that glue and construction paper for two days, and to SHERYL HAGEDORN for her puppet show.

Here are the committee people who made it happen: FLORENCE BAKER who rounded up the volunteers; ELLEN BROTHERS who arranged the quilt show; MIKE DUBESA, our hard ice cream expert; CINDY HAMMOND, decorating in a flash; JEAN HOLMAN, dishes washed and punch made while you wait; JACK & BETTY KNIGHT, creators of the attractive new computer-made signs you admired; SADIE RILEY, baker of 500 shortcakes and kitchen anager; MARGE SCHMUNK, money manager; DOROTHY STURGES, serving and kitchen expert; BARBARA WELSH in charge of our booth; SHARON NESBIT, publicity; and HEIDI WILSON who led a delegation to the television show AM Northwest.

Our volunteer list was distributed at the social and does not count those folks drafted into helping at the last minute.

TIME TO THINK OF HARVEST FAIRE...

With ice cream social behind us, we aim our sights at our other big fund-raiser of the year, the Sept. 26 and 27 Harvest Faire, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Troutdale City Park.

A LIST OF THINGS WE NEED:

1. Items to sell in Granny's Attic. If you have gently-used goods, collectibles, perhaps some vintage clothing, jewelry, knick knacks, etc., donate them for the sale. Leave the items on the front porch of the Harlow House. Please don't delay. Nothing is harder on hard-working volunteers than coping with donations at the last minute. Cindy Hammond, (206) 892-6379 is in charge.

2. Plan to bring corn stalks, pumpkins, or fall flowers, for decorating. If you know a grower who could make us a great deal on great pumpkins, call Sharon Nesbit, 665-0423.

3. Will you want a craft booth? We encourage hand-crafted items or fruits, vegetables and flower stands. Prizes for the best decorated booths. Contact Nancy Collins, 661-1156.

4. Have a bunch of antiques to sell, or know someone who does? We will once again have our antique show and sale. Contact Jean Holman for space in the Great Hall, 665-7678.

5. Can you bake a cherry pie? Or berry or apple or pumpkin? Our homemade pie sale is a delicious tradition. Volunteer two pies.



NEW AT THE HARLOW HOUSE...

Cathy Hamme catalogs artifacts at the Harlow House. We recently received a copy of Fred H. McNeil's book, "Mount Hood," a hay hook, a grain sprouter and a two-part rat trap.

If you have not visited the house since mid-June, come see Fred Harlow's bedroom, a new exhibit by display coordinator KIM SCHILLING. You might remember Kim, she was Harlow House caretaker for several years, and comes back to us with her special talents.

While creating Fred Harlow's bedroom, Cathy observed that we do not have a single ash tray in our collection. If you happen to have ashtrays marked with the names of Troutdale or area businesses, we would love to add them to our list of artifacts.

While working in the barn recently, Bob Strebin noted we need a wooden Gresham Berry Grower's crate and wooden berry hallocks to go in it. This will be important for future farm exhibits. Search the dusty corners.

Bob and his mother, Vera, gave a Fairview Farms cream can and a milk can labeled Robert Strebin. Such items with local names and places are a top priority in our collections.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS...

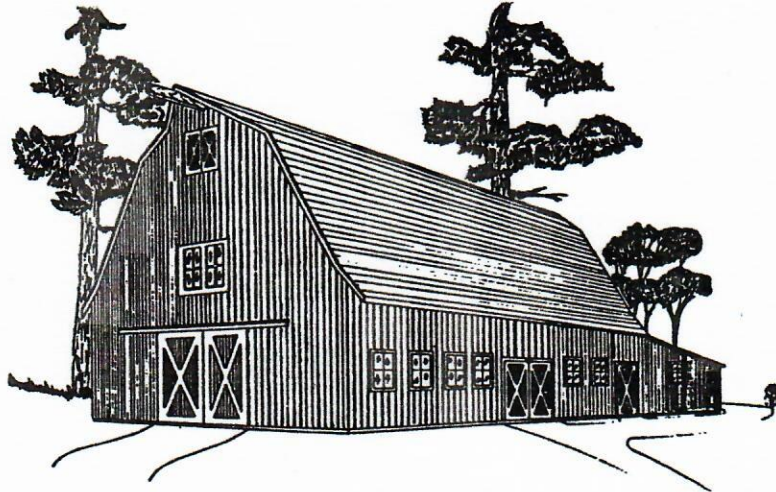
MIKE & MARY ALICE MCMENAMIN, owners of Edgefield Village and the Powerstation, are new lifetime members. Also welcome to DANA & THERESE SCOTT, Troutdale; JEAN CUSICK, Portland; LUCY ICKLER, Troutdale; LILY DICKINSON & JOHN GRIMM, Portland.

Lucy Ickler writes: "Made my first visit to the Harlow House a week ago, was delighted and amazed at how nice it is."

A REPORT ON THE BARN...

Mark these days on your calendar:

BARN AND HARLOW HOUSE WORK DAYS ARE SATURDAYS--AUG. 15, SEPT. 19 AND OCT. 10. BEGINNING AT 9 A.M. BRING A SACK LUNCH.



The big question: "When will the barn be done?" Our answer? About \$40,000 from now.

But progress continues. The last of the track lighting goes up this month in the barn. BOB JACOBS and JACQUES RENARD have given weekends since early this year. We owe them our deepest thanks. The electrical hookup under the Columbia River Highway is complete and the lights turned on last month. This project required much work of Jacobs, Renard, DICK JONES and ED ASHLEY, but we can now see the light.

JIM MURPHY and DICK JONES spent July 18 putting finishing touches on the barn cupola, a project financed by a gift from BILL NESBIT.

Dick's most urgent goal is to complete the outside finishing work this summer. If you can pound nails or paint, we can use you for those tasks on our barn work days.

Next step? Insulation. Barn work days will likely allow time to install insulation, something volunteers can do. Then comes sheet rock, plumbing, installation of heating/cooling systems and finally finishing work. While that is going on we will seek help in planning our exhibits. To make that happen, Ellen Brothers will work this summer writing a grant application for exhibit planning.

SHANIKO TREK PLANNED SEPT. 12...

Our fall trek is be Sept. 12 to Dufur and Shaniko in Central Oregon with gorgeous views of wheat fields, mountains and the Columbia River.

Space is limited to 21 people on this trip so the first checks in are the first to have seats reserved. Price is \$45 including dinner, transportation and tours. Pack a lunch for a picnic stop in Dufur.

Our tentative itinerary calls for a 9 a.m. departure from Troutdale with a stop in The Dalles. We will go on to Dufur to see a log house museum, lunch in the park and possibly tour Dufur's recently restored hotel. From there to Maupin for a look at the Deschutes and on to the historic wool town of Shaniko for a tour of the city and a dinner of cattleman's stew and Indian fry bread at the Shaniko Hotel. Then a twilight ride home, arriving back in Troutdale about 9 or 9:30 p.m.

If you want to join us send your checks, marked Shaniko Trek, to our address on the front of the newsletter.

Recently, we came across a 1974 Gresham Outlook story in our files, an interview with the late Dick Knarr, founder of Troutdale Sand and Gravel and a former mayor of Troutdale. Dick's humor-filled tales of old Troutdale bear repeating.

"They told me later that the guy was a prizefighter."

Dick Knarr waved his gnarled thumb, busted in a fracas at a Troutdale dance and told the story.

"I can remember the darndest little details, but not the dates. I managed dances at Troutdale City Hall to help pay for the hall. This guy was drunk and annoying the girls so I grabbed him by both elbows and steered him out.

"At the front step he took a swing at me and I knocked him down the steps. He kept comin' up and I kept knocking him back down. Why, if he'd been sober, he'd have knocked the stuffing out of me. Somehow I held my thumb wrong and broke it."

At 80, Dick Knarr is one of the community's best story tellers. His incredible memory, coupled with a fine sense of humor and a love of the ridiculous, has produced a treasure of tales to enliven the city's history.

Knarr's favorite comedian was (and still is) Will Rodgers. There is a touch of the cowboy humorist in Knarr. At the Troutdale Historical Society, where he is a charter member, Knarr is often met with a round of applause before he has a chance to say a word.

He can still recite, word for word, poems he learned as a school boy in Kansas.

Knarr came to Troutdale with his parents in 1908. They had been in Twin Falls, Idaho, but feared the water there when Dick got typhoid fever.

"When we got here I got typhoid again," said Knarr, "but we decided to stay."

Dick Knarr was not a sickly kid. Despite the bad start, he made the most of his surroundings, unconsciously adding memories for his fund of stories.

His father, J.R. Knarr, was a carpenter and the two worked on the tuberculosis sanitarium at the Multnomah County Farm (now Edgefield Village.)

"When they were building the farm a gang of Swedish carpenters and brick layers came down to clean Troutdale up. The butchers (employees of Troutdale's Union meat Company) heard about it and were ready for them...as my father and I rounded the corner of the main street, there was a whole block full of fighting men in the middle of the street. There was one man standing near us.

"Another came along and hit him on the head with a bottle. My dad decided we better get home, and I never did learn who got the best of it," he finished regretfully.

Knarr remembers the time he and his father were remodeling a saloon building for use as the Troutdale General Store.

"They had a bunch of men moving the saloon up the street a block--just carrying the stuff up the sidewalk. They would have a free drink at each end and, of course, they got pretty well organized."

During the move a man called Big Red pitched a rock at a foe, missed and smashed a window. In the ensuing melee Big Red was jailed and then freed by the marshal who happened to be his brother. Town councilmen joined the uproar, one carpenter entered the fray with a hammer and Knarr called it "a lively time."

"They had a lawsuit over it but I never knew just what for," he said.

(See page five)

Young Dick Knarr ran traplines for muskrat, mink and raccoon to pay his way to a YMCA high school in Portland. "I wanted to go to college in the worst way," he said, "so I saved \$150 and went to Corvallis to Oregon Agricultural College. You could get in then with two years high school. A professor talked me out of it--said he'd seen too many kids run out of money and have to quit."

Even with a successful business behind him, Knarr regrets his lack of formal education.

Knarr worked for the railroad earning the princely sum of \$1.50 a day. He was paid in gold and silver by a paymaster with a six-shooter on the table. He volunteered for the Navy in World War I and served on the U.S.S. Housatonic, a minelayer in the North Sea.

"I was more or less forced into the sand and gravel business. I'd hauled some sand by horse and wagon and after the Navy I bought an old beat-up truck to do hauling. There weren't many trucks then and I hauled everything, potatoes, cabbage, you name it."

After hauling several loads of sand from a pit on the Sandy River (just across from the Harlow House), Knarr said "it finally dawned on me I ought to go into the business."

"I was paying Lou Harlow 15 cents a yard to haul from that pit so I took my soldier's bonus loan and a second mortgage and bought 19 acres on the river for \$5,000. Everybody wanted to know why I bought that no-good land."

That was in 1921 when Knarr was 27. Three years later he married his wife, Margaret, who "took orders, dispatched trucks, kept house and raised two kids in the bargain." (A third child, Robert, died of polio.)

In the early years, Knarr said, "I shoveled the sand on the truck and off again. In fact, I got to be pretty good at it. In 1924 I bought a truck with a hand dump you could crank if you didn't play out too fast." Knarr asked his father to join him as a partner.

It wasn't always easy. He supplemented his income in smelt season selling as much as 50 tons of smelt to the fish hatchery at Bonneville. At the height of the Depression, his firm sold only 800 yards of gravel at \$1.50 a yard for an entire year.

A fisherman and outdoorsman, Knarr in 1915 or 1916 took several others and team of horses and wagons on a camping expedition on the Barlow Trail.

In 1928, feeling guilty about weighing 200 pounds, he loaded a full back pack and hiked the Oregon Skyline Trail from Olallie Lake to the McKenzie highway. During the entire trek he saw only a few U.S. Forest Service employees. He emerged on the highway 40 pounds lighter and fit and happy.

Like his father, he was a Troutdale councilman. Knarr was mayor in the 1950s.

"I got after the state to raise the level of the Columbia River Highway. Why, we had curbs as high as a table and it was heck of a jump to the street."

At about the same time, he joined the effort to form the Security Bank of Troutdale (now the building houses the Troutdale Police Department).

"I got tired of running to Gresham all the time to do my banking," he said. "One of the Gresham bankers asked what was wrong with his bank and I told him it was fine except it was in the wrong place."

This story, written by Sharon Nesbit, appeared in the Jan. 24, 1974 Outlook. It has been edited to fit the space. Dick Knarr died June 2, 1975. Memorials in his memory were used to build the first addition to our original museum in Troutdale City Park. A photo of him in his first truck hangs in the Burns Bros. Truck Stop at Troutdale.

SAY THANKS TO MARY HUGHES....

At right is Mary Hughes, a retired nurse who still manages to find time to volunteer as the school nurse at Alpha High School in Gresham and as a host at the Harlow House.

This summer when our plans to hire a director failed, we found ourselves with the Harlow House museum ready to open and no host.

Mary volunteered to bridge the gap and take the job until we could find someone to hire. She worked at the Harlow House from mid-June to mid-July until Ellen Brothers was took her place. Further, Mary refused any pay for the task and asked that the money she would have earned be donated to the barn fund in memory of her late husband, Bob. Mary worked a month for us, with assists from CATHY HAMME and HEIDI WILSON. As per her request, \$350 has been transferred to the barn fund in her husband's name.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETS AUG. 17...

You may not know it, but the historical society has a Board of Trustees, which meets once a year to review this organization's progress and to set goals for the coming year.

The Board of Trustees consists of people who have been honored as members of the year or others who have donated large amounts of time or money to our society. Board of Trustees members are: EDNA ALEXANDER, CATHY HAMME, FAYE HARLOW, JOHN NASMYTH, VERA STREBIN, LOIS SCHULTE, HELEN OTTO, HELEN ALTHAUS, BILL NESBIT, NANCY COX, JEAN HOLDMAN, DOROTHY STURGES and the 1992 member of the year, SHARON NESBIT.

This year the Board of Trustees meets with our society's officers and board of directors at 7:30 p.m., Aug. 17, in the barn. All our meetings are open to the public and society members are cordially invited to attend.

IN MEMORY

PAUL OVERSTAD and HELEN McWILLIAMS, both members of our society, recently died.

Mr. Overstad was the son of former Troutdale City Recorder Jesse Overstad. We are grateful for the time he came to one of our meetings and shared stories of his mother's and grandmother's tea room, Fir Cliff, on the Columbia River Highway. That building is now the home of George and Carole Klinger.

Helen McWilliams was a longtime member of our society. She and her husband, Holly, who survives her, gave us a wonderful photo of our signature tree, The Lover's Oak.

TREASURER'S REPORT...as of May 31, 1992

ENDOWMENT FUND.....	\$12,720.21
OPERATING ACCOUNT.....	8,175.15
DEDICATED BARN FUND.....	733.69
BARN BUILDING FUND.....	11,281.30
DIRECTOR FUND.....	2,566.42
TOTAL.....	35,476.77



You will be seeing more of the official Oregon Trail logo shown above. The trademark logo has been designated for use on all official items related to the 150th anniversary of the first major migration over the Oregon Trail.

Our society has been working for more than two years, and intensively for a year, to be a part of these activities. Thanks to the leadership of LYNDA HARVEY, negotiations have been completed with the Columbia Gorge Factory Stores and the Oregon Trail Coordinating Council. As a result, Troutdale will have three historical panels, official sites on Oregon's part of the trail, telling the story of our community and its part in the Great Migration.

The Columbia Gorge Factory Stores agreed to pay costs for the three panels, two to be located at their store site, and a third to be erected at the Harlow House. These interpretive signs will talk about Troutdale's role as a Gateway to the Columbia River and a crossroads, about the Columbia River rafting of the emigrant wagons, and finally, about the emigrants camping at the Harlow House and continuing on to their new homes.

These markers put Troutdale on all official trail maps. We will dedicate them as soon as they are erected, probably early next year.

Beyond that, we will focus on the trail in all our coming gatherings. Next year's programs will concentrate on Oregon Trail studies. We plan an April trek to Baker City, an overnight trip, to see the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. We will conclude 1993 with a pioneer Christmas in the Harlow House.

Our special thanks to Lynda Harvey for overseeing the historical panel project. It took many hours of her time and many phone calls.

BEWARE OF CREW CUTS...

Tom Wetherill, who is researching material for a book of history, frequently comes across ancient tidbits to share. Here is one from an 1861 newspaper:

A caution to croppies--Dr. Liebnitz says that cutting the hair close to the head, a custom which is now in vogue, causes the sap which naturally invigorates the hair to strike to the brain, thus giving that ungainly peculiarity of expression which is noticed in those whose heads have been cropped.

DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR:

OCT. 18, SUNDAY--carpool to Clackamas County Museum, meet at 1:30 p.m. at Troutdale City Hall.

NOV. 16, MONDAY--regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., Troutdale City Hall.

DEC. 12, SATURDAY--noon to 4 p.m., Christmas at the Harlow House.

ABOUT THE TROUTDALE PICNIC...

Though it has not taken place at this writing, these people all volunteered for the July 25 Troutdale picnic. DAVID RIPMA fixed up his old John Deere tractor from Sweetbrier Farm. He carried a load of STURGES FAMILY members waving signs about our Sept. 26 and 27 Harvest Faire.

Other workers in our world-famous hamburger booth: JEFF & CONNIE VAN CLEAVE, MIKE DUBESA, PHIL & HEIDI WILSON, TOM & CECILIA PAVLIK, DICK JONES, TED SCHULTE, DOROTHY STURGES, LUCY TOLBERT, CATHY HAMME, BARBARA WELSH and SHARON NESBIT.

NAME DROPPERS...

CATHY HAMME and SHARON NESBIT both made donations to the director's fund in honor of KAZ & HELEN TAMURA...ELSIE SIMINITT and BOB & LOUISE DIX gave gifts in memory of WEB RATHMAN...VERA STREBIN made a donation in memory of PAUL OVERSTAD...ED ASHLEY, BOB STREBIN, DICK JONES, SHARON NESBIT, JEAN HOLMAN and JIM MURPHY earned dollars toward their names on the barn beam at the July 18 work day...Our friends in the FAIRVIEW-ROCKWOOD-WILKES HISTORICAL SOCIETY have completed negotiations and are ready to restore the historic Heslin House. Join them for Sunday Afternoon in the Park on Aug. 9, 1 to 5 p.m. in Park Cleone...

TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
104 S.E. KIBLING ST.
TROUTDALE, ORE. 97060

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INSIDE:

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WORD ON THE OREGON TRAIL
DICK KNARR AND HIS STORIES
AND ADVICE ON HARVEST FAIRE

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