

BYGONE TIMES

A Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April, 1998

Life on the other side of the Sandy...



An interview with Garthe Brown

Troutdale City Hall, Sunday, April 19, 2 p.m.

Portland attorney Garthe Brown, now in his 90s, will talk about some of his early memories of life on the Hicklin Farm (now Lewis and Clark State Park) in the 1920s. This program will be another of our live oral history interviews.

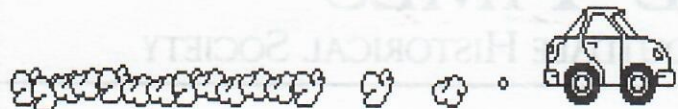
In September, 1851, Felix Hicklin claimed 324.41 acres on the east bank of the Sandy River, establishing his house and main farm at the base of the bluff at the present day location of Lewis and Clark State Park. In about 1924 the Hicklin Ranch, as seen here with the Troutdale ferry in the foreground, was purchased by Caroline and Frank Brown who lived there for a time with their children, Eileen and Garthe.

In this newsletter...

More on the Tea & Tour...a memory of Bob Sturges...Girl Scouts find Harlow House treasures...a trek to Tacoma...push to finish the barn...thank you to the Tamuras...a stump...a chance to help.

Other events coming up...

Troutdale Trek to Tacoma: The deadline for signing up for our three-day thriller, the Troutdale Trek to Tacoma, is Monday, April 20. Cost is \$300 and includes lodging, transportation, two meals and all admissions to such sights as the Washington History Museum, the restored Union Depot, Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium, Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center at Mount St. Helen's,



Centralia's historic Olympic Club, Lakewold Gardens and a tour of the pretty city of Steilacoom. To save your seat, send your check, plus name, address and phone number to Tacoma Trek, Troutdale Historical Society, 104 S.E. Kibling St., Troutdale, OR 97060. Want more information, call 661-2164.

Tea and Tour at the Yoshida Home: Time is running out to tea -- eight individual tables, each set and hosted by "tea mistresses," on event is a benefit for our Harlow House museum to keep things running



save a spot for a lovely Saturday, May 2. This there.

Smelt exhibit, barn opening likely due at ice cream social

Some decisions are yet to be made, but it looks like our long-awaited smelt exhibit and opening of our barn museum, will be at our June 6 and 7 ice cream social.

Presentation Design, which has guided our Barnstorm Committee through the creation of our first professional exhibit, says the best installation date for their staff is May 15, giving us about two weeks after installation to do the final tasks necessary to open to the public in early June.

Bob Strebin, chairman, has done a heroic job of preparing the barn for the occupancy. He and Mike Alderson, a city employee who volunteers often to help us, are building a storage area in the Dick Jones Workshop to house part of the artifacts currently on the ground floor. In anticipation of painting, Deb Cook rallied a crowd of "strong backs and young limbs" on March 28 to move materials to the upper floor. We are working with volunteers interested in painting.

Volunteer opportunities

If you can lend us a hand in readying the barn, painting, cleaning, installation of materials, please call Deb at the Harlow House, 661-2124.

Other volunteers critical. We need hosts during the early weeks of the exhibit when it is likely to be crowded. And we are currently filling our summer calendar of hosts at the depot, and the Harlow House. If you can give one day a month to hosting duties, your efforts would be most appreciated. A museum doesn't count, if the doors are closed.

People to thank

The barnstorm committee, led by Strebin, has worked since June, 1995 to bring the first professional exhibit to our museum. In order to save money, the committee did the "sweat equity," of research and writing. Using a \$20,000 bequest from John Nasmyth, the committee -- Strebin, the late Dick Jones, Alice Wand, Mike Dubesa, David Ripma, Sharon Nesbit and, now, Mario Ayala, prepared the exhibit.

CALENDAR for April & May Meetings



Monday, April 6, 7 p.m., barn

Steering committee, social, picnic, Harvest Faire

Tuesday, April 7, 7 p.m.

All former and future depot volunteer, Harlow House.

Sunday, April 19, 2 p.m.

An interview with Garthe Brown, Troutdale City Hall.

Sunday, May 17, 2 p.m.

Memory of the Doolittle Store, opening with reception at store site, Oregon Country Quilt and Fabric, then to Troutdale City Hall.

Monday, May 14, 7 p.m., barn

Steering committee, social, picnic, Harvest Faire.

Board of Directors

Wednesday, April 1, 7 p.m., barn

Wednesday, May 6, 7 p.m., barn

Wednesday, June 3, 7 p.m., barn

Coming Events

Saturday, May 2, Tea & Tour, Yoshida Home

Fri-Sun, April 24, 25 & 26, Spring Trek

Saturday, June 6, Grand opening, barn

Troutdale Ice Cream Social, June 6 & 7

Troutdale Summerfest (Picnic & Parade), July 18

Harvest Faire, Sept. 26 & 27

Harlow House

Saturdays and Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m.

Depot Museum & Store

Closed for the winter.

James Cook is doing the woodburning necessary to get the last of the names on the barn beam. **Marge Schmunk** is performing the near thankless and nearly hopeless job of cleaning and sorting out stored materials in the **Harlow House** basement...**Jim Cook** "unwelded" our jail doors for storage.

Girl Scouts hunt treasure



On Feb. 19, Brownies from Troutdale Girl Scout Troop 1146, along with their leader, Sandra Duncan, and some willing mom, toured the Harlow House museum.

The girls were completing work on a badge dealing with days of yesteryear. To prepare for their visit, the girls had brain stormed questions to be answered by Mary Bryson, Harlow House curator. The questions dealt with the story of the house, Troutdale and the surrounding area, and favorite games and pastimes of children growing up in Troutdale in the early 20th century.

Bryson and Troutdale Historical Society director, Deb Cook, created a "Treasure Hunt for the Harlow House" to be filled out by the girls as they toured the museum.

As Bryson led them through the Harlow House, she asked the girls to find artifacts such as a wind-up record player or a wood cooking stove, items that they would not find in modern houses.

The girls enjoyed hunting for the "treasures", and hopefully they will remember their visit in greater detail.

Strebin "stumped" at Harlow House

Working with our excellent and most accommodating carpenter/home restorer, Michael Yost, Bob Strebin folded himself in half and slid under the Harlow House to see what was the matter.

One of the things that was the matter -- there are several -- is that the front corner of the house was supported on tree stumps. They are still out front at the Harlow House for purposes of gawking and head-scratching.

Bob is recovering from his below-story adventure with the help of a chiropractor.

Thanks to **Mary Bryson, Bob Strebin, Alice Wand, Jean Holman & Florence Baker**, the office was tended, meetings were covered and other details taken care of when Deb Cook was called away for a family emergency in February.

In memory...

Bob Sturges -- 1916-1998

Robert McBride Sturges died Feb. 28 of complications from a series of strokes. He and his wife, Dorothy, joined the Troutdale Historical Society 30 years ago as charter members and have been steadfast volunteers ever since.

Bob, who was mayor of Troutdale for 10 years, was the third president of the Troutdale Historical Society. It was his idea to move away from a simple postcard notifying members of meetings to a newsletter. He was also fascinated by World War II and aviation history and was our expert on the Troutdale airport. Maude Winning's interview with him was part of our recent program on the history of the airport.

In addition he agreed to serve as chairman of the committee to save Edgefield Manor and lent his voice to the chorus that prevented Multnomah County from tearing it down.

His family suggested our society for memorial donations in his name.

Donations to the endowment fund have been made in his name by: **Sam & Nancy Cox, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Dick Dudonsky, Mr. & Mrs. Mike Treadwell, Mr. & Mrs. Gary Johnson, Bob & Mona Mitchoff, Harvey & Betty Wieprecht, Vaden & Jo Callister, Jacqueline J. Crichton & Terry D. Avery, Mary E. & Phillip Johnson, Herbet & Clover Nasmyth, Ed & Marge Schmunk, Crystal Bailey, Bonnie Irwin, Elsie Sinnitt, Dennis & Frieda Ryland and William & Janet Irwin, (a friend for 81 years.)**

Donation to the barn fund was made by: **Bill & Sharon Nesbit.**

Thanks a bunch...

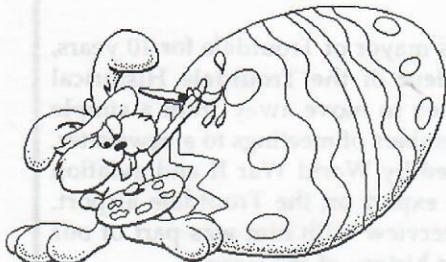
Maude Winning arranged for the Dr. Marvin Beeson, our excellent speaker last month on the geology of the our near neighborhood, the Columbia River Gorge. (Did you know that the cliff face on which Vista House sits, was once a valley that filled with lava?) Further, Maude paid Dr. Beeson's honorarium as a gift to our society.

Kim Cook donates her time to prepare a marketing program for Troutdale Historical Society. Her advice to date -- we undervalue our services in tours, research and museum facilities and should charge more. Kim is fine tuning the marketing study now, matching it with goals outlined in January by the board of directors.

Val Lantz offered to supervise Harlow House restoration and repair and is currently getting estimates on having the house painted, and dealing with lead-based paint on the building. In addition, Val and Deb Cook are seeking people to wash and repaint the back porch kitchen.

Troutdale Historical Society
104 S.E. Kibling Street
Troutdale, OR 97060

Time Dated Material



For April: work in the barn, a life history, a trip and getting ready for tea.

Page 4

Tamuras feted

About 60 people gathered in room full of flowers at the park March 22, to honor Kaz and Helen Tamura for their gifts to our community and historical society. Mayor Paul Thalhofer declared them first citizens of Troutdale. Sam Cox and Marge Schmunk spoke of the flowers the two contribute to our June ice cream social. President David Ripma announced the placing of their names on the main beam of the barn.



Kaz Tamura, a man who does not like to speak in public, wowed the party with an eloquent tribute to his wife, Helen. "It's OK to give you the extra flowers we have left over at the end of the season," he said. "And Helen always plants extra."

The party was produced by Joan Lilja, Deb Cook, Florence Baker and Cindy Hammond. Sharon Nesbit conducted the program. Joan, her husband, Lyle, daughter Jill Grimes, and Jean Holman, Bob Strebin and James Cook all helped.

Donations to the barn honoring the Tamuras have been received from **Joe & Toby Onchi, Penny Balch, Adrienne Clausen and Bill & Sharon Nesbit.**

Director's club counts up new members

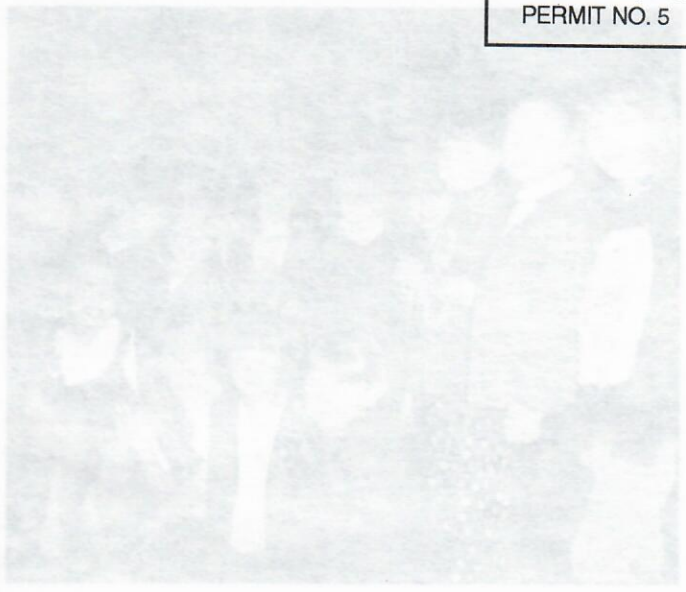
A number of our members have signed up for the Director's Club, a higher level of membership supporting the work of our part-time director, Deb Cook. The Director's Club also brings with it, a special summer party at the home of President David Ripma.

Recent Director's Club memberships came from **Evelyn Jacobson, Dodi Davies, Beverly Jones, Hudson Lasher, Mike & Elaine Dubesa, Betty & Harvey Wierprecht, Gerald & Shirley Lambert, Ed & Marge Schmunk, Elsie Simnitt, Penny Balch, Mona & Bob Mitchoff, Ted & Alvera Binn and Bill & Sharon Nesbit.**

In memory

Space limitations prevent us from printing the obituary of **Merle Coons**. It will be in an upcoming issue. In addition, word has been received of the death of **Helen Tiller**, whose history we taped about 10 years ago.

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Treasurer's Report from Penny Balch

Cap. Imp. Fund, Harlow Hse....	\$19,925
Operating Fund.....	1,150
Barn Building Fund.....	4,354
Barn Exhibit Fund.....	10,957
Endowment Fund.....	31,390

News of our Members...

Dick Anderson, our faithful neighbor, who put the garbage out for us each Tuesday has had back surgery and retired from his task. He and **Carol** have always been good neighbors to the Harlow House...We need a volunteer interested in old photos to sort and label the **Larch Douglass photo collection**. Interested? Leave word at the Harlow House, 661-2164..**Sam Cox**, who flew over the USS Missouri during the historic treaty signing in Japan, reminds us to visit the ship in Astoria in mid-April before its permanent move to Hawaii...**Deb Cook** counted noses and recorded 1,690 Harlow House visitors in 1997.