

Bygone Times

A Newsletter of The Troutdale Historical Society.



NOVEMBER, 1988

EDITOR: Sharon Nesbit, 665-0423

BEGINNING OUR WINTER MEETING SEASON...

With leaves falling and rain threatening, it's time to knock off this business of eating pie and lasagna and get down to the serious stuff -- history and cookies.

Our first winter meeting of the Troutdale Historical Society will be at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Nov. 21, in Troutdale City Hall. We plan two events on our program. The first will be recent history, showing of a video tape filmed by Frank Zimmerman on our Aug. 20 Trek to Hood River and a short feature from cable TV on our September pie sale.

Then we will conduct a live interview with Homer Lumsden, who was born in 1912 in Troutdale on the Sun Dial Ranch. Homer will have a story or two to tell about growing up in Troutdale and working here. He and his wife, Lola, still live in the area.

As usual, we will top our evening off with cookies and coffee. The first two people to call the editor get the honor of baking cookies.

BUILDING A BARN.....

As this newsletter is being prepared, the first phase of our museum barn south of the Harlow House is only about two weeks from completion. The contractor, Dave Traxler, hopes to have the roofing on and the doors installed so the building is weather-tight and secure. There is siding to be painted and put up, and Dick Jones and Sam Cox plan to organize a painting party for that.

And, as of our most recent accounting, we still need to raise about \$2,000 to pay off the \$15,000 cost overrun for this first phase of the building. We have raised \$12,745 to date to cover unexpected costs resulting from the excavation and increases in lumber prices. Much of the financial battle was won Oct. 14 when Burns Bros., owners of the truck stop at Troutdale, presented us with a check for \$7,500 that literally gave us the roof of the barn.

We have, as well, received 28 checks of \$100 each from our members who have ganged up to be part of a century club of \$100-donors to the barn fund. A list of all those donors appears in this newsletter.

In honor of the Burns Bros. gift, the company's logo, "their brand", was woodburned into a beam on the barn's first floor. The board of directors has agreed that all gifts of \$500 or more will earn a brand on one of the beams of the barn--those donors, in addition to Burns Bros., are Lee and Bonnie Irwin, the Troutdale Lions and Tad's Chicken N' Dumplin's. Donors who have given gifts earlier, and whose "brands" will appear are: Helen Althaus, Willa Day and Nathalie Wilson. (If you think we have omitted donor John Nasmyth from this list, you are correct. Special plans are in the works for John, the fellow who launched the barn fund.)

What can you do to help? Call Sam Cox, 665-9086, if you can join the painting party. If you can give Dick Jones a hand, sweeping up, or whatever, call him evenings at 252-3406. If you want to be a member of our century club, send your check. Century club donors will be recognized with certificates at our November meeting. And, keep the faith, we'll get this barn built yet.

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THANKS TO THE BARN BUILDERS..

When thanks are said to the people who have worked so hard to build Phase One of our barn, no one should forget DICK JONES who has volunteered every day. Or contractor DAVE TRAXLER who has donated all his time. Or BEN WETHERILL who showed up on his way home to Maryland and decided to pitch in, even though we could pay him very little. Then there is BILL STONE who worked the better part of two weeks before he suffered a bad bruise on the job and had to go home to recuperate. (At this writing, Dick Jones's knee has given out.)

We have mentioned donors to the barn on the previous page, but another gift came from the TROUTDALE LIONESS, who gave \$300.

Members of our century club with gifts of \$100 each are: BILL & SHARON NESBIT, GERALD & SHIRLEY LAMBERT; SAM & NANCY COX; ROBERT STREBIN, VERA STREBIN, RANKIN & SUE DAVIS, FRANK & JEAN DRIVER, JUDY JONES, JUNE SHERMAN, JOHN NASMYTH, FRANK & DOT PACKARD, LEONARD RICKEY, MARJORY KASCH, HAROLD BELDIN, HARRY & SYLVIA FOWLER, ALEX JONES, FRANCES SEITZ, SHARON & WILLIAM STREBIN, BILL & FLORENCE BAKER, DON SEYLER, HOMER & LOLA LUMSDEN, SADIE RILEY, WEIR & MARIE OWENS, DOLLY GRAHAM, BOB DUNKEN, MIKE & CATHY HAMME; AND HELEN ALTHAUS.

Other gifts have come from GENEVIEVE FROMMELT; VICKIE NESBIT; BILL STONE; MARTHA BOOHEISTER, HAROLD & ELEANOR BANGS, DICK ANDERSON, MARY HUGES, CRYSTAL BAYLEY, AND LAWRENCE & SHIRLEY YOST.

OUR CLASS REUNION...

About 50 people attended the class reunion Oct. 8 in Troutdale City Park. Sadie Riley and her crew, Evelyn Jacobson, Lael Larger, Jeff Watanabe, Sherry Jacobs, Jean Holman and Rankin Davis, all cooked and served the lasagna dinner. Sadie donated all the groceries for the event as her gift to the barn fund.

In addition, we received a letter from Alice Swanson Skirvin, 4940 Purdue NE, Seattle, Wash. 98105. (At least we hope that is her name, her writing is hard to read.) She says hello to all her friends from Troutdale Grade School. She graduated in 1951, is the mother of two, and has been the wife of an architect for 30 years. She is writing childrens stories, "combining my career as a visual artist, mother, teacher, and former berry picker into stories that will no doubt include my memories of Troutdale, and all the wonderful people there."

MORE LETTERS...

Bonnie Townsend Irwin, who with her husband, Lee Irwin, donated \$1,000 to the barn fund wrote to say that part of the funds come from "berry picking money." Bonnie grew up on a farm in East Multnomah County and attended Cedar School. And Dolly Graham, who joined our century club with a \$100 check, wrote: "I have a lot of good memories of my life in Troutdale. Still miss Jim and the farm life on the Sandy River."

IN MEMORY:

Hugh Rhodes Ranken, Portland, a member of our society, died in September at the age of 78. He is survived by his wife, Virginia.

NEW MUSEUM HOURS...

Thanks to a new corps of volunteers, our Harlow House museum, at 726 E. Historic Columbia River Highway, will be open every Sunday this winter from 1 to 4 p.m. Our museum hosts at the Harlow House are: Sadie Riley, Virginia Murphy, Jack and Robert Burns, Barbara Welsh, and as substitute, Sharon Nesbit.

Each attended a training session in September at the house where they were treated to tea and cookies served by Dorothy Sturges.

TREK NO. THREE COMING UP...

Well, we did it again. We took Trek No. 2, Oct. 15 up the Columbia River Gorge and made it all the way back without losing a single history buff.

For those who missed it, we took a luxury coach with a restroom and stopped first in The Dalles to see the Surgeon General's Quarters. Then up the Columbia and across at Biggs Junction to Goldendale where we stopped for lunch and met up with our members Homer and Alice Townsend. Homer, a former Cedar School graduate, is the Klickitat County chairman for the Washington Centennial and is kneedeep in that event.

Then to the fabulous Presby home, now the Klickitat County Historical Society museum, where we saw elegant woodwork, a fascinating children's room, a Victorian parlor and a wonderful old kitchen. Shirley Yost's cousin, Pearl Shepherd, who lived in the house many years, was there to tell us about it.

Then to Stonehenge, where we pretended we were Druids, and on to Maryhill museum to see the treasures of Queen Marie of Rumania and some stunning art work.

It was fun, and Gene Bui is so tickled about not losing a soul, that he's going to risk it again on Sunday afternoon Dec. 11 when we will board a bus about 1 p.m. and head for Albany to take in the Victorian Parlor Tour, a visit to 10 homes, some churches and museums. We won't be able to fit them all in but we'll give it a good try. Cost will be \$15. If you want to join us please send a check to Troutdale Historical Society, 104 S.E. Kibling St., Troutdale, Ore. 97060. We'll confirm as soon as we have all the details put together.

NAME DROPPERS...

EDNA ALEXANDER has donated a substantial pile of Sandy's Camera photo order envelopes to us. Each \$7 order is good for one 5x7 reprint, which we use in our files... BONNIE TOWNSEND IRWIN and LEE IRWIN, both of Seattle, are new members of our society... So are JEANINE CAMPBELL, JOSEPH FARRIS and RON BURGIN... We left out the names of several depot museum summer hosts in last month's newsletter. They are JEFF & CONNIE VAN CLEAVE, FRANK & JEAN DRIVER, VERN BARNES, TERRY GILMORE, MIKE RICE, EVELYN JACOBSON and LINDA HARVEY... And how about our pie bakers. We made about \$250 for the barn fund at our September pie social. The people who did the baking were: LINDA MURPHY, SHARON NESBIT, JEAN HOLMAN, DOROTHY STURGES, CATHY HAMME, PAM CHRISTIAN, DONNA JOHNSTON, FLORENCE BAKER, EDNA ALEXANDER, SADIE RILEY, NANCY COX, SUE DAVIS, HAZEL WEBB, MARIE STONE, DONNA HAWKINS, MARTHA BOOHEISTER, CLOVER NASMYTH, BARBARA WELSH, CATHY GILMORE, HARRIETT JECKELL & PAULINE RUGGLES... MARGARET OKRASINSKI, Gresham, played the organ and we dedicated our new Harlow House flagpole to ALEX JONES, who has raised the flag in downtown Troutdale for the last 20 years.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANKS...

Naturally, we have written thank you letters to all donors to our barn fund. But, if you would like to say a personal thanks to major donors, please do so. They would be delighted to hear from you and happy to know that their donation has meant so much to our members. You may address letters to: Dave Ray, Burns Bros Inc., 621 S.E. Union Ave., Portland, Ore. 97214; or Bonnie Irwin, 100 University St., #10-L, Seattle, Wash. 98101.

Thanks can also be expressed to the Troutdale Lions and Lioness members as well as the people at Tad's Chicken N' Dumplin's.

EDGEFIELD ISSUE HEATS UP...

The problems at Edgefield Manor, the former Multnomah County poor farm, continue. The building, empty since 1982, has been invaded by trespassers who have sprayed painted it with graffiti. Multnomah County Commissioners want to tear it down, but we continue to hope that a buyer might be found for the building who would be interested in restoring it. At this time, the City of Troutdale is in the process of designating Edgefield as a historic site. In any event, it will require a hearing before the building can be torn down.

To answer questions about the practicality of restoring the building, and the costs to do so, the county has commissioned a research firm to do a study of the manor. That study is not likely to be completed until January, which means that the next hearing on Edgefield probably will not occur before February, 1989.

Multnomah County Chairwoman Gladys McCoy came to Troutdale Oct. 18 to talk about Edgefield. It is the first time county officials have done that and she made her visit, largely at the insistence of Glenn Otto. Sen. Otto has suggested that the building could be put to use for government office buildings for Multnomah County as well as other cities in the area.

Bob Sturges is chairman of our Edgefield committee and has appeared on television a number of times speaking in support of restoration.

COMING UP...

Multnomah Cable Access television will show a half-hour program on our society's walking history tour in November. Check your cable guide for times. Mark Sat. Dec. 17 for Christmas at the Harlow House. Bingo, which is sponsored in part by our society, takes place each Thursday night at 7 p.m. in the Troutdale city park.

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

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FIRST WINTER MEETING
AN INTERVIEW WITH
HOMER LUMSDEN,
NOV. 21