



Bygone Times

Newsletter of the
Troutdale Historical Society

September 2009

Mark your Calendar

Sunday, September 13
The 94th East
Multnomah Pioneer
Association Meeting and
Picnic at Corbett High
School.

Social hour is at 10:00 a.m. followed by a meeting featuring "Oregon's Sesquicentennial presented by local author/historian Clarence Mershon. Lunch follows the meeting with a \$6 per person charge.

This will be a great time. You do not have to be a pioneer to attend. Because we do not have a September meeting for THS, this is a great chance to go enjoy some history, great food, and our East County neighbors.



October 11
Troutdale/Fairview
Elementary School
Reunion

This year's reunion will 2-4 p.m. at the Barn Museum in Troutdale on October 18th. Bring your old photos and memories.

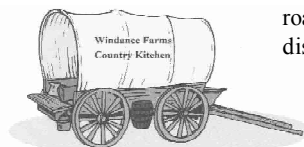
We are extending a special invitation to our friends at Rockwood/Fairview/Wilkes to attend and hope this will be a yearly addition to our event.

Cookies, punch and coffee will be served. For more information call the office at 503-661-2164.

Celebrate Troutdale's 102nd Birthday October 2 - First Friday at the Depot



Blacksmith-Gary Lewis

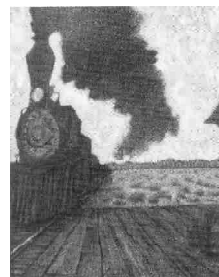


Chuckwagon food by
Windance Farms Country
Kitchen

First Friday Artists



Inga Ojala



Kym Ojala



Sarah Lowe

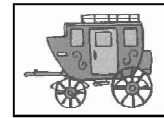
This is going to be awesome!

Come have some birthday cake and help us celebrate.

We are having a fast draw demonstration by **Inga Ojala** (her father was the gunslinger who drew on Marshall Dillon in the opening sequence of *Gunsmoke*), a blacksmith will be here with the tools of his trade also doing demonstrations.

Artists **Inga Ojala**, **Kym Ojala** and **Sarah Lowe** will be displaying their art. Kym has some wonderful new railroad paintings that will be on display.

As always, there will be



wine tasting and **Musky Buskers** will be providing the music.

Chuck wagon food will be served and sold by **Windance Farms Country Kitchen**.

There also may be a horse-drawn stagecoach offering rides up and down main street. We are still working on those details at press time.

Music by
Musky Buskers



After much hard work from all who volunteered to make this year's Salmon Bake a huge success, THS raised \$3100. Thank you to Jean Hybskmann, Mary Bryson, Jean Holman, Mona Mitchoff, Judy Norby and Barbara Welsh for organizing such a wonderful event and getting so many wonderful volunteers to help with set-up, tear-down, parking, baking brownies, bartending, serving etc.

A special thank-you to Bob & Jean Ice for hosting the event and another special thank you to Rip Caswell for bring his artwork to decorate an already beautiful setting.

Thanks to Mary Bryson, Jean Huybskmann, Sarah Lowe and Ed & Phyllis Thiemann for donating auction items for the event.



While the nation has lost an icon and friend in Ted Kennedy, Troutdale has lost an icon and friend in Bob Dix. Anyone who has lived in Troutdale long enough has picked berries in Dix's berry fields (at least once) and has a berry picking story. I say that because this is my berry picking story...

The only real reason I wanted to go berry picking was because everyone I knew was already there picking berries and making money. It did not take me until the end of the first crate of strawberries to know that picking berries was not for me. The events that followed ended my "career" as

a berry picker. I found the biggest, reddest, juiciest strawberry I had ever seen. The whole bottom of it was brown, so I decided to get rid of it by throwing it at someone. I don't even remember the intended target.

But it did not make it all the way to its target. Do you all remember what a task master Mrs. Parker was??? (She was Gary, Larry & Camellia's Mom). Anyway, I threw the berry, she stood up, got the biggest, reddest, juiciest berry right in the side of the face and without missing a beat she yelled "You! Out!"

She made me the hap-

piest kid alive that day, but I still wanted to work. I found out that babysitting (even with dirty diapers) was more to my liking.

Bob always had a smile and a gentle way about him.

This is another loss for a family that has lost so much. Our thoughts, prayers and love go to Louise, Kathy and family. Bob will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

For those who attended the Salmon Bake, you know what a beautiful, wonderful event it was. I would like to thank **Bob & Jean Ice** for opening up their home to make this

such a successful event. We will probably do it again next year, so don't miss it.

As always, if given an event to plan, the Tuesday Ladies make it very special. Thanks to **Jean Hybskmann, Mary Bryson, Jean Holman, Mona Mitchoff, Barb Welsh and Judy Norby.**

Also many thanks go to: **Jerry Hybskmann, Bob Mitchoff, Nick Welsh, Paula Goldie, Ann Klinger, Sharon Kolb, Ed & Phyllis Theimann, Janice Falkenstein, Heather Mitchoff, and Kris & John Zappa.** It was a lot of work!

Terry

THS Loses a Friend - Bob Dix

Troutdale Historical Society loses a friend.

Bob Dix died Friday, Aug. 21, at his Boring home at the age of 84.

Bob, smiling and soft-spoken, was a child of the Depression. Born Nov. 3, 1924, in Blunt, S.D., to William "Ben" and Luella (Snell) Dix, the family came west seeking a healthier climate for his mother, who had asthma.

They loaded a 1929 Buick with all their possessions, headed for "nice and cool" Oregon, but to do so, they had to drive the Columbia River Highway through the gorge.

"Unbelievable," he remembered in an interview. "The road was enough to scare us to death."

They settled in Troutdale when Ben Dix went to work for the Bissinger Wool Pullery. His mother became secretary of the Troutdale School Board.

Bob attended Troutdale Grade School and graduated from Gresham High School in 1942. There he met Ella Louise Wall, whom he married Oct. 2, 1943, in

Pocatello, Idaho.

He attended Pacific University on a baseball scholarship in 1942-43 and entered the Navy in 1943. He served on a weather ship, the USS San Bernardino, at Midway and the Aleutian Islands. He was a quartermaster 3rd class and was discharged in 1945.

Bob first got a taste for the berry business while tending his father's five acres. In about 1948, he and his wife moved into a rented home in Troutdale, surviving the winter of 1949-50 when everyone was snowed in for more than a week. They purchased about 40 acres at the top of the hill in Troutdale, the present location of the Strawberry Meadows subdivision.

But in the late 1940s when they first purchased their farm, no one even considered homes on the site. Louise Dix remembered, "We had to make a payment of \$500 a year on that land, and how we struggled sometimes to get it paid."

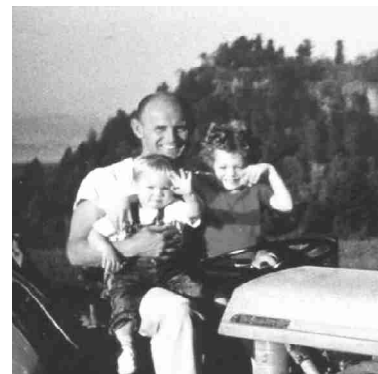
In response to losing two children Robin in 1982 and Julie and a grandson in

1995, the Dixes helped preserve the canyon and historic trail behind their fields. In honor of their children the trail is called Robins Way.

The Dixes retired in 1987 and moved to Boring. He was a charter member of the Troutdale Lions Club, served for a time on the Troutdale City Council and was a board member of the Gresham Berry Growers Association. He and his wife were members of the Mariners group at Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church.

He was a lifetime member of the Troutdale Historical Society and donated strawberries for that organization's early ice cream socials.

He liked dancing with Louise, and they enjoyed traveling the United States towing their trailer. They visited many different countries as well. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and golf and two beach homes at Cape Meares and on the



Bob, Robin and Julie circa late 1950s

Puget Sound. He and his wife were faithful fans at their grandchildren's and great-grandchildren's sporting events.

He is survived by his wife, Louise of Boring; daughter, Kathy Louise Dix Green of Troutdale; foster brother, Bob Grockett of Gresham; as well as 10 grandchildren and six, soon to be seven, great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church or Mt. Hood Hospice, P.O. Box 1269, Sandy, 97055

Information taken from Sharon Nesbit's August 26th Outlook obituary.



After a year and a half of hard work, the Reynolds All-school Reunion is in the history books. The fundraising efforts raised more than \$12,000 towards the scholarship fund. WOW!

Bring a neighbor, friend or relative to First Friday and introduce them to the fun and functions we have at THS!

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

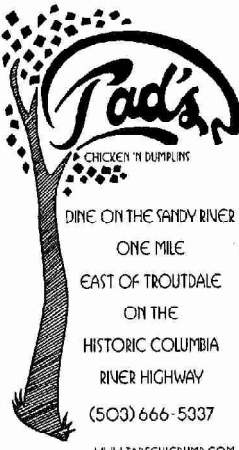
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Troutdale Historical Society
104 SE Kibling St.
Troutdale, OR 97060
Phone 503-661-2164
www.troutdalehistory.org

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



Centennial Monument Donations

Dale & Bonnie Handy Family

Volunteers needed third Sat. of the month for hosts at Harlow House and the Barn Museums!



If there is a star on your label, your membership dues are past due! Please remit to:
Troutdale Historical Society 104 SE Kibling St. Troutdale, OR 97060 as soon as possible.

The increasing cost of printing and postage for newsletters is skyrocketing and it no longer allows us to mail newsletters to unpaid members. If you wish to continue to receive the newsletter by email, please advise us of your email address. We will consider all memberships on a case-by-case basis before your newsletters stops.