



BYGONE TIMES

Newsletter of the Troutdale Historical Society

April 2003

Coming up at THS

Oral History

Sun. April 27, 2 p.m.

Troutdale City Hall

Beloved THS member, Scott Cunningham shares stories of Troutdale's yester-years. Refreshments Served. Donations welcome.

Annual Tea & Tour

Sat. May 3

11 a.m. & 2 p.m. Seatings

Hosted by the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist at Bridal Veil.

Cemetery Tour

Sat. May 17

Bus leaves Troutdale at 1 p.m. and returns 4 - 5 p.m.

Stan Clarke guides us through four cemeteries and several graves of interest to historians.

Ice Cream Social

Sat. & Sun. June 7 & 8

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Glen Otto Park

Community event with ice cream, music, food, crafts, artwork, vendor booths and special fun for children.

Vendors call THS for booth information.

Save The Date:

Lewis & Clark

Dinner Auction

July 12, 2003

King Of The Mountain

By Walt Nasmyth

On a summer day in 1936 or 37 Scott Cunningham and I were playing King of the Mountain at his house.

That is a game whereby one person (The King of the Mountain) takes his stand on a small hillock and the challenger or opponent or foe must assault the hill and cast out the ruling King. Or in plain language throw that sucker off the hill.

Scott had just thrown me off the hill so it was my turn to challenge the King's reign. I charged up the hill and grabbed Scott around the waist and threw him down the hill. That was when the fun really began

for Scott landed face down on a rock cutting his eyebrow quite badly.

Needless to say, that was the end of our game of King of the Mountain, for Scott's father had to run Scott down the hill to Dr. Mangles' office to be sewn back together again. The next time you are talking to Scott check his left eyebrow and you will see the remnants of a small scar there.

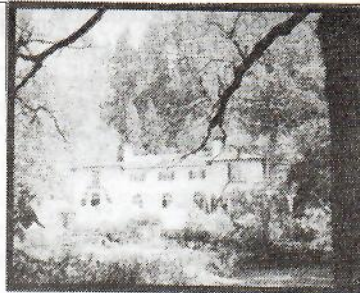
As I remember, we never did play that particular game ever again.

Come hear Scott's Oral History interview on Sunday, April 27, 2PM at Troutdale City Hall.

Tea and Tour 2003

The hostesses are unpacking grandma's tea cups, pressing the table cloths and polishing the silver. Elaborate plans are under way and the count down is beginning. We are excited

about being able to hold our sixth annual Tea and Tour at the Villa at Coopey Falls in the gorge. The Franciscan nuns are graciously opening their home to us. The 1916 white Italian villa with its mirror pond and trees bursting with spring green is a setting right out of a Gothic novel. A perfect place to extend the little pinky finger while sipping tea and munching delectable scones, smoked salmon sandwiches and strawberries. Steve Lehl from the Crown Point Country Historical Society will be there with historic photos of the



Columbia River Gorge and Coopey Falls. The only way to see Coopey Falls is from this property. The gardens have been restored to their original formal beauty and will be filled with May's flowering shrubs and trees.

Come join us, your friends and the sisters on May 3rd for a memorable day of relaxed elegance. If you have not received an invitation and wish one, call the THS office at 503-661-2164. Seatings are at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Price is \$40 with \$5 going to the sisters to support their work at the Montessori school. \$30 of which is a tax deductible donation.

There are only so many seats available, so get your reservations in early.

Artistry of Kitchens is still on display in the Harlow House and will be through June 8. Visit the collection of aprons and recipe books Saturdays & Sundays 1-4.

BRINGING YORK BACK TO LIFE

On Sunday, March 16, there wasn't an empty seat at Troutdale City Hall when Ron Craig presented the story of York. York is the only name he had, being a slave, his father was Old York. York was a member of the Corps of Discovery, and vital to the exploration of the West, but long overlooked in history books. Ron told of York's adventures and the many ups and downs of his life. York went from being a piece of property to a comrade of the members of the Lewis & Clark expedition. He became the first black man to vote in America, when he was allowed to vote equally along with the others on where to camp for the winter when they reached the Pacific Ocean. The Indians along the trek looked upon him with awe and respect, calling him "Big Medicine". Ron Craig has been traveling the country telling York's story. He recently spoke before 3,000 attendees at the national Lewis & Clark Bicentennial commemoration kick off at Monticello. He has produced two documentaries

on York, the European version, "Lewis & Clark, and Who was that Black Man standing next to Clark?", to be released this year, and a longer version to be aired on PBS next year. Ron has also written a children's book titled "Who was York? A New Look at the Lewis and Clark Expedition, which is to be published by National Geographic Children's Book Division and expected to be released next year. Through Ron's efforts, the City of Portland designated that the "Y" street in NW Portland honors York, of the Corp of Discovery. There is currently a proposal to have York's image on a US Stamp. Ron Craig's efforts are helping an unjustly written history to be corrected.



Ron Craig, Filmworks NW Portland, Oregon



Starting Your Family Tree

By Doneva Shepard

The first step: Determine a way to control/compile the wealth of information you will accumulate. If you have a computer, you will want to install a genealogy software program that will allow you to not only control your data, but have the ability to print out or send your data to other family members or interested parties. I will not suggest or infer that any one program is better than another. There are differences in programs and their prices. There are wonderful sites on the web for comparing genealogy software. www.cagenweb.com/rwilson/comparison.htm is an example of one.

The LDS/Mormons offer a FREE genealogy program (Personal Ancestral File, PAF) for you to download at their site, www.familysearch.org. When you get to this site, on the top of the page you will see "Order/Download Products". When you arrive at that site, you will see on the top of the page "Software Downloads-Free". You can make your choice about which program will work best for you. I like the exceptional way their charts print out. I also like the price! Free is a very good price.

If you do not have a computer, you can compile your data on paper. Charts and research tools are available at several places or, if you have a friend who has a computer, perhaps you can convince them to print forms for you, available at <http://www.ancestry.com/save/charts/ancchart.htm>. Even if you have a GREAT computer, it's a good idea to also keep a hard-copy of your data. Always keep in mind the warnings of Sharon Nesbit about the fragility of computers.

There are several other places locally where you can purchase ancestral charts to compile your data; The Mormon Family History center on SE 181st (across from Centennial High School). The Tree House, (Sunnyside, close to Clackamas Town Center) or the Genealogical Forum of Oregon, 1505 SE Gideon (off Powell Blvd.)

The second step: After you have decided on a system, start inputting data. Start with you! Write down everything you know about YOU! Put the information in the #1 spot in your ancestral chart. It's a once in a lifetime chance for you to be #1. Next, add your parents (Father will be #2 and mother will be #3). Then, add your father's father (#4) and your father's mother (#5). Your mother's father will be #6 and your mother's mother #7. Already you have 7 people in your chart. You are probably already a genealogy addict.

You will now have feelings of wanting to collect birth and death certificates, censuses and stories. You will want to know who your grandparent's parents were and where they came from. What church did they go to? What was their trade? Where did they go to school or, did they go to school? Could they read and write? What language? How did they get to this 'island' we call America? Were they here for the Battle of the Revolution? Were they here for the Civil War? If so, which side were they on and, why? Did you have an ancestor on the Mayflower? Was one of your ancestors burned at the stake in the Salem witch trials? Did one of them ride with Jesse James? Or, better yet, was your ancestor Jesse James?

Whatever you find, it will be a fun project for you and your family!

Next article: Where to go to glean the information that will add branches to your family tree.

Confessions of a Caretaker

By Kim Schilling

"I can arrange things." I said to the Troutdale Historical Society panel that was interviewing me for a caretaker position for the Harlow House Museum in the mid 80's. I had applied as a couple, but alas, on interview day my then-husband said he was off for Canada and I could do it myself.

Indeed. I decided to and without him forevermore. I knew that the society probably needed the maintenance expertise of a handy man more than anything a lone woman could provide, but I determined to convince them that I was the caretaker they needed.

Whether because of my sincerity, or the fact they didn't have other applicants, I never knew, but one deeply golden September day found me moving my meager possessions into the upstairs caretakers quarters which at that time comprised the two rooms facing north toward the front of the house.

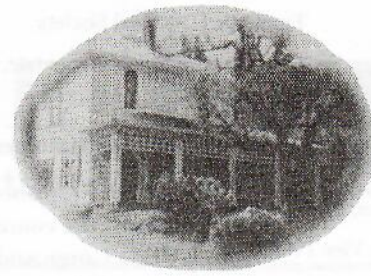
A one-hundred-year-old iron bed, a vintage Winthrop writing desk and an antique washstand completed my furnishings. A fluffy white rug provided warmth and softness on the dark stained floorboards and the old walnut tree reached friendly arms toward my window letting me know I was never truly alone.

Esmerelda (the mannequin) and I spent happy nights cleaning the house and rearranging vignettes of historic artifacts. The gardener, Cathy Warren, brought beautiful arrangements of garden flowers, herbs, and branches to use throughout the old rooms, and frequently left treats of lemon cake baked with cups of chopped herbs including lemon balm and lemon thyme. Her contributions helped bring the house, and me, to life.

One dark, cold December night I returned home from work, opened the front door and switched on the lights. The house was enchanted. It had been completely transformed for the upcoming Christmas festivities by the "ladies who lunched." The Tuesday Ladies.

Hundreds of handmade gingerbread houses hung from the branches of a tall slim Douglas fir shedding its rich scent. Candy canes, cinnamon sticks and wide deep pink ribbons were expertly tied to droop romantically from sheaves of pine, juniper and fir nestled in every windowsill, shelf and mantle. It was one of the nicest Christmas surprises I can remember.

Not long after that, my ex-husband tried to find where I was though none too persistently. There had been some scare about a stalking situation in the area which had resulted in a shooting. Sharon Nesbit looked in on me thinking it might be me. Regretfully she looked at me when I opened the door - hale and hearty and most definitely sans gunshot wounds, "Boy, that would have been a good story!" She said sadly.



I must admit I entertained gentlemen callers in the rooms upstairs. One evening I ran down to the kitchen from upstairs to grab a bottle of wine, and found a very old lady with thick lenses in her eyeglasses standing in the middle of the kitchen. It was 9:00 in the evening. She had let herself in and was taking a tour. I said, "I am sorry, the house is not open now for tours." She looked disapprovingly over the tops of her glasses at my short sundress and said, "Well then honey, you really should lock your doors!" I laughed and took her for a tour.

One day I returned home to find the doors to my rooms open and all the drawers pulled out of the dressers. Pieces of my jewelry were missing along with some war medals from the display upstairs. I checked the guestbook and saw that two guests had signed in for that day's tour as Sid Vicious and Johnny Rotten. Unfortunately for them, their mother had signed up to be a member of the Troutdale Historical Society that day. We called and they were busted when she found the missing pieces in her son's room.

For part of his punishment, the boy had to come to the house, apologize to me and then do yard work with me supervising him. I think I felt more punished by this duty than he ever did, but his poor mother was devastated. I wish I had told her how lucky she was to have this happen. He was a nice boy and just got momentarily off track, perhaps he is now the father of a little boy and they live in Troutdale. He will take his son to the Harlow House and tell him the story. A little time and perspective can magically transform anything.

Sam, Dick, Ted, and Ellen, just some of the ones gone now, they were a big part of the magic of the times. They were characters. Generous with their time, talent, humor and knowledge, their spirits are imbedded in the place adding to the richness of all that has gone before and all that is yet to be.

A part of me, too, will always remain. On windy winter nights, when you think it's just the shadow of Esmerelda moving in the front window, it is really me, my younger self, taking a walk back through time and the house that sheltered me so generously and so well.

Editor's Note: Troutdale Historical Society used to have live-in caretakers. Kim became one in the fall of 1985. Kim is married, living in Florida, and wrote this piece for our readers.

Harlow House Museum hosts needed for the following dates: (from 1-4) Apr 19 & 26; May 3, 4, 11, 18; June 1. Please call THS if you would like to host. 503-661-2164

Doily exhibit evokes memory

A new exhibit of doilies in the 'back bedroom' at the Harlow House shows off the work of women who wanted to add a bit of lace to their homes and their persons. These fragile confections on pillows, table cloths, sheets and linens and clothing, were also used to adorn table tops and chair backs.

Arline Seidl, a charter member of our society and widow of John Seidl, who farmed on cabbage hill across the Sandy River from Troutdale, was the first to donate a huge collection of crocheted doilies when we opened the Harlow House for exhibits in the early 1980s. Arline was a brilliant woman, a fine historian and a great wit and the doilies seemed out of character. But she stood up at one of our meetings and explained that she and John Seidl were engaged for 25 years, John deciding to wait until his parents were dead to marry. In the in-

terim, she filled the days and her trousseau with dozens and dozens of crocheted doilies. Many of them, she said were created in a fishing boat with John using his hook for fish and she using her crochet hook to catch a husband.

See this exhibit at the Harlow House every Saturday or Sunday afternoon, 1 to 4 p.m.

Sidewalk Viewers

Visitors at the Harlow House March 22 were several generations of the family of Eagle Scout Michael Lawrence who made it his Eagle project to widen the sidewalk at the back of the Harlow House to provide handicapped access. Michael worked hard to match the old brick-trimmed sidewalk with his new addition. The house is often visited by people who have played parts, large and small, in its restoration.

Our Thanks...THS wishes to thank the following for their support:

Gifts in Remembrance
Lois Coons-Wanamaker
In Memory of Milo Coons

Bob & Louise Dix
In Memory of Joe Lucas

Karen Bowyer In Memory of Benny Sandiforth

Donations
Pat & Pat Brothers
Irene Maxwell
Martha Booheister

Gift Memberships
Bob Strebin,
Helen Otto

Directors Club
Scott & Eileen Cunningham; Florence Baker; Sally King; Patricia & Kenneth Smith; Nancy Cox; Helen Otto; Ed & Phyllis Thiemann; Cheryl Elliott; Gwen Burns; John Bryson, Penny Balch, Max & Sheryl Maydew, Jon Dickinson & Marlene Burns

In Remembrance...

Elizabeth Winroth, maps librarian, of the Oregon Historical Society died in March at the age of 51 of ovarian cancer. Elizabeth was a mainstay of the Oregon History Center and a help to us on many occasions as we tried to find our way through historic Oregon maps.

Walter Mackey
We are sad to lose Walter Mackey, longtime Troutdale resident, THS member, husband of Lorraine.

Thank You Lois Coons-Wanamaker for sending the burial flag awarded to Milo M. Coons. Lois believed it would have pleased Milo for THS to have and use this flag.

- THS Board**
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Walter Nasmyth, Photo Librarian
Mary Bryson, Curator
Penny Balch, Grant Research
Marlene Burns, Bookkeeping



Who Am I?
Hint: I began life in Maupin
I'll share my memories and stories with you on April 27

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.

Troutdale Historical Society
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