

LADY BOOTLEGGERS AND VARMINT HUNTERS...

Our first meeting of 1982 promises to be a good one. On Monday, Jan. 18, at 7:30 p.m. we will meet in the council chambers of Troutdale City Hall to discuss Nettie Connett, a remarkable character who made moonshine and hunted varmints in the hills near Aims.

This will be a panel discussion featuring Clara and Allan Baker who knew Nettie as a neighbor. Everyone is invited to contribute their Nettie Connett story. The program will be preserved on tape. If anyone has or knows where they can get a picture of Nettie, please bring it along.

Gina Held and a volunteer (who does not yet know that she has volunteered) will bring the refreshments.

About the weather: If hazardous driving conditions exist, all Troutdale Historical Society meetings are automatically cancelled. If in doubt, call the editor or Sam Cox, 665-9086, or Alex Jones, 666-6718.

ABOUT OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY...

Christmas at the Harlow House was so great that it is likely to be a historical society tradition. There was a constant stream of visitors all afternoon -- old friends and many first-time guests who brought their small children for a visit with Santa Claus.

The dining room table actually creaked under the weight of goodies brought by our members. The wassail, served hot from a kettle in the kitchen, filled the house with the scent of spices. There were evergreen boughs, Christmas bows and and carols.

It didn't happen accidentally. Right up to 11 a.m. Santa Claus (who spends the rest of the year being Ted Schulte) was slapping green paint on the new gazebo. He and caretaker Ken Grassman spent countless, cold December hours finishing the gazebo. They painted it three times because the paint was washed off twice by wind-blown rain. Mary Knarr and Sharon Nesbit gave outdoor Christmas lights to trim the gazebo and light the pine tree in the center.

Dorothy Sturges, Jean Holman and Sharon Nesbit decorated the house. The Victorian Christmas tree was hung with cornucopias full of dried flowers given by Jack Malcolm. Jean made two magnificent wreaths out of grape vines. Don Seyler brought a set of old encyclopedia which sat under the tree along with the doll recently donated by Nathalie Wilson. Mary Kaiser brought handmade ornaments. Don and Jo Bogh saw to it that Santa had calendars to hand out to big people.

Ed Schmunk, incidentally, did some pinch hitting for Schulte Santa when he had to leave early to visit residents at Edgefield Manor. A quick shuffle was vital to keep children from finding two St. Nicks in the house at once.

As always, we owe special thanks to our caretakers Ken and Linda Grassman. Ken finished a plate rail in the kitchen in time for the party. Linda worked all night the evening before, stayed up to get the house ready and then fell asleep and slept through the whole party.

OTHER CHRISTMAS PRESENTS...

Ginger Harlow Allen has completed a biography of Capt. John Harlow, a splendid effort that took years of research. With her permission, we'll excerpt parts of it and send out with your copy of the February newsletter.

AN OLD-TIMER...

This week we talked to Margaret Dell Merrick of Portland who was born in Troutdale in 1894. Her father, August Dell, worked for the meat company as a wool grader. They lived next door to the Helming residence. Among her memories are walks down the hill to Larrison's saloon to get a bucket of beer for her father and the times when they hitched rides up the hill on lumber trucks.