

SNOWBOUND...

Our railroad saga continues this month with stories about two snowbound trains.

The program at the Troutdale Historical Society meeting, Monday, January 16, 7:30 p.m., in the city park building will include the tale our rail museum curator Niles Harding has promised to tell us about his experiences 29 years ago when the City of Portland passenger train was snowbound in the wilds of Wyoming for five days.

From our library, we will read the account by George Abdill, Roseburg, concerning the passenger train that was locked in the icy Columbia Gorge from Dec. 19, 1884 to Jan. 7, 1885.

We'll turn the heat up to counteract these chilling tales.

THE BUSINESS OF BEING A YEAR OLDER...

Our February meeting will mark the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Troutdale Historical Society and President Sam Cox plans to unveil, once and for all, what we hope is a complete list of the charter members who joined the Society ten years back.

We'll fatten up on birthday cake and plan to fatten our treasury by payment of annual dues, \$2 apiece per person.

Also at that meeting, February 20, we'll have our annual election of officers. Nominations will be opened Monday for candidates to run for the offices of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and three members of the board of directors.

CONSIDER THE CALENDAR...

January is still fresh and there are more Troutdale calendars available for those who still need some at the rate of \$2 apiece. According to conservative estimates, Society members have sold more than 300 of the calendars at a gain to our treasury of \$1 each. Special thanks to Nora Lewis who has turned out to be a super calendar peddler.

RAILROADERS GALORE...

Lots of trackwalkers turned up last month for the movie on steam locomotives. Park caretaker Otto Hartz was particularly pleased to see the big engines he used to work on in Wyoming.

Lee Wells, a 40-year rail veteran, gave the museum a trackwalker's light, a lantern and an Oregon Railway and Navigation switch key.

Fay Davis has located a motorized rail car used by track crews and Ray Meyer brought us a sample of Union Pacific's distinctive barbed wire.

GIFTS FROM FRIENDS...

Nathalie Wilson has donated an ink well and three old autograph books which we will use in a special Valentine's display at our February meeting.

We have also met Ken Cone who has a wonderful supply of early Troutdale pictures. He has loaned three for copying and promises to provide more. He is related to the early day owners of Troutdale's Cone Lumber mill. His wife is a member of the pioneer Pelton family.

And Bob Keralake brought us a mannequin of a small boy, about size 8, which we plan to use in a display on fishing in the park museum. Does anyway have a raggedy straw hat or worn overalls such as a small fisherman might wear?

PICTURE BOOKS...

Bert Whalen, our CETA museum curator, has finished the lengthy task of developing photo files. The idea of storing our old pictures in looseleaf folders was stolen from the Port Townsend, Washington, historical museum. Bert developed a system which should make it easy for anyone to locate the pictures they want in our files. Take a look at the project Monday evening.

January 4, 1978

Dear Troutdale Historical Society Member:

Your newsletter announcing our Jan. 15 meeting and this additional letter are being mailed early in order to let you know what has been happening in regard to the possible purchase of the Harlow-Evans house on East Columbia Street in Troutdale.

For those who did not attend our December meeting, a little background: Mabel Evans is confined to a nursing home and her family is preparing to sell the home she has occupied since the 1930s. It is the house built by Lou (son of Captain John Harlow, Troutdale's founder) and his wife, Laura, at about the turn of the century.

In our opinion it is the last and best example of an early Troutdale home. It has long been a dream of this Society to purchase and preserve it as a museum. Our failure to do so could result in the demolition of the building because the acre and one-half it sits on is more valuable than the building itself.

The matter was discussed at our December meeting, including the fact that the home and land will certainly cost in excess of \$50,000. Those at the meeting registered 100 per cent approval of an attempt to purchase.

Because there are no federal grants available for acquisition, the money would have to be raised through donations and fund-raising activities of the society, probably over a ten-year period.

At the December meeting, two members offered a total of \$600. What the board of directors needs to know is how much our members are willing to offer toward the purchase.

It is the most serious decision to confront us in our 11-year history. We must consider the Society's resources, that of our members and, at that same time, our responsibility to Mrs. Evans who needs a steady income from her home to remain in a nursing home.

Should we obtain sufficient money for purchase, it is the plan of the board to turn our present museum in the park back to the City of Troutdale which will repay us for repairs and improvements made to the building. We believe the best way to utilize the Harlow-Evans house is to have a live-in caretaker in the home.

The Troutdale building inspector tells us the house is in excellent shape. However, it is our intention to install fire protection devices and take other measures to protect it.

We are asking you to make an estimate of what you can give at the bottom of this page. In no way is this legally binding, it is simply a way for the board to determine our resources.

Please return at our Jan. 15 meeting or mail to Alex Jones, in care of Troutdale City Hall, 104 Kibling Street, Troutdale, 97060.

AMOUNT _____

NAME _____

January 1978

Dear Member:

The Troutdale Historical Society is ten years old and it's high time we counted noses again. We'd like to know more about you, your personal history and experiences in the Troutdale-East Multnomah County area. Please fill it out as completely as possible, even if you have lived here only a short time. A form is enclosed for each person in your household who is a Society member. Return to Troutdale Historical Society, 104 Kibling St., Troutdale, 97060, or bring it to the next meeting.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
(Women include maiden name)
BIRTHDATE _____ TELEPHONE _____
BIRTHPLACE _____ BUSINESS ADDRESS _____
PARENTS' NAMES _____

Date, circumstances of arrival in Troutdale area:

List particulars of marriage, date, to whom, children of marriage:

List occupations and approximate dates while living in area:

List addresses of home locations in area and approximate years lived there:

Relate, if you can, any history connected with the homes, previous owners, etc.:

List full names and addresses of children:

Can you give approximate dates and details of floods, fires, storms, major construction activity or disasters you remember or have heard about?

What organizations or clubs have you belonged to?

What area of history interests you most?

Feel free to provide more information on the back of the page.