

A TREASURE FOUND...

Last year they were cleaning closets at the Oregon State Highway Department and found a treasure --- a box of hand-tinted glass slides of early Oregon highways, mostly the Columbia River Highway. Those slides have been converted into a color slide show and we will get to see them at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Nov. 18, in Troutdale City Hall.

Bringing the slide show will be Dwight Smith, state highway department historian. Smith is probably the state's leading expert on the old highway. He prepared the National Register nomination for the road.

Clover Nasmyth and Alice Wand are bringing refreshments for the evening.

ONE HUNDRED ATTEND REUNION...

Actually, Sam Cox counted 104 at last month's Troutdale School Reunion, our first meeting of the year. We were tickled to see so many new faces and hope they'll come back every October as we plan to make this an annual event.

Nathalie Wilson was the oldest Troutdale school graduate present. One couple came from Red Bluff, Calif. And, thanks to Camille Crumb, a good group of teachers was present. (Camille, incidentally, signed up as a lifetime member of the society.)

DO YOU HAVE A NATIVITY SCENE?

How about giving up your treasured nativity scene this Christmas and loaning it to the Harlow House for a special Christmas display? We have three creches for the exhibit but could use as many as six or seven more. We will need them at our Nov. 18 meeting because we plan to set them up the following week. They will remain on exhibit through January and we promise to take good care of them.

To go along with the nativity theme, the Harlow House Christmas decorations will feature angels this year. Jean Holman, Sharon Nesbit and Dorothy Sturges are working on angel ornaments for the tree.

Incidentally, our Harlow House Christmas party with all the lovely decorations, the steaming hot wassail and Santa Claus at the fireplace will be on Saturday, Dec. 21. So mark your calendars.

DECK THE HALLS...

Our Dec. 21 Christmas party or our regular open house day on Dec. 1, 1 to 4 p.m., will be good opportunities to see our refurbished upstairs hallway in the Harlow House.

We owe many thanks to Kay Foetisch who spent three of her precious days off papering the hall and ceiling for us. Her helpers were Sam Cox, Sadie Riley, Ted Schulte and new Harlow House caretaker Kim Brewer. Sharon Nesbit and Cathy Hamme finished the job by putting up the decorative border. It is beautiful and a tremendous improvement over the old bare boards we've been putting up with for the last three years.

Money for the nearly \$400 in wallpaper came from the proceeds of our Columbia Gorge Home tour last May.

THE ELVES HAVE BEEN AT WORK...

Wallpaper isn't the only good thing that is happening at the Harlow House. The elves have been working there again and the old place looks better than it ever has, except, possibly, when it was new.

Caretaker Kim Brewer has expended a lot of time and energy in rearranging displays and brightening the place with flowers, fall leaves and pumpkins.

Groundskeeper Cathy Hamme has placed brick edges all around the flower beds and planted a bunch of bulbs that should be breathtaking in the spring.

Sadie Riley painted our mail box and put old-fashioned lettering on it. It's the prettiest mail box on Columbia Street.

And Ted Schulte put in drain tile across the front of the house to catch the rainwater that was washing all over his new sidewalk.

Niles Harding sneaked out from his glass shop in Portland and replaced a cracked pane in one of our front storm windows.

And City of Troutdale crews will build this winter a new set of signs for the Harlow House.

Still to go: we plan to install a new kitchen light fixture; paint the kitchen and bathroom; and rip up the linoleum in the upstairs hall and the kitchen and paint the floors. We also need our back steps rebuilt, we need a new door on our back porch (an old-fashioned one with panels), a new back porch floor, an upright vacuum cleaner and a used washer and dryer. If you know of any elves who can supply these needs, let us know.

MORE OLD HOUSES...

Edna Bramhall Ellis wrote with information on the old Bramhall house on Troutdale Road which is presently being restored by Ray and Grace Fonseca. She says her father, Harry Bramhall, built the house in 1909 on 15 acres that had been part of the Douglass donation land claim and was the site of the original Douglass house. Edna was born in the house in 1913. She was married there in the parlor. She hopes to come to Troutdale in the spring and would like to visit the house then.

AND A NEW BARN...

It seems to be happening too slowly for John Nasmyth but the fund to build a new barn in back of the Harlow House is now at \$10,673. Much of that is due to John who "pays his dues" almost monthly with another check for \$1,000. We received another check from John last month.

At the request of his family, donations given in memory of Morris McGinnis will go into the barn fund. Those gifts presently amount to \$754.

In the meantime, Gene Bui is continuing to look for grant money that will help us build the barn.

As to more money matters, Ted Schulte reported at the last meeting that we once again beefed up our July payment on the Harlow House to \$2,600. That leaves only \$4,400 left to pay off the mortgage.

A DEPOT FRIEND...

Rankin Davis was appointed this summer to the vacancy on the board of directors left by the death of longtime board member Bob Kerlake.

Rankin has also taken on the task of looking after the depot museum and has contributed cleaning materials to spiff it up occasionally. He is also the fellow who gives several Sundays a summer to hosting the museum and will work this winter on setting up a new display. The display, incidentally, will be a collection of railroaders keys, buttons, pins and small odds and ends, donated to us by Gail Meyers. Gail also converted one of our drawers into a glass-topped slide-out display case.

MORE NEWS...Doris Caramella has taken on the job of coordinating our summer volunteer museum hosts...Dr. Irene Douglass Waldo is in Jallo's Nursing Home, 5737 NE 37th, Portland, 97211. She would appreciate cards or visitors...None of this newsletter would happen without the faithful work of Mary Eaton who mimeographs the paper for us.