

BYGONE TIMES

A Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May, 1998

Sharon Nesbit, 665-0423

Taking inventory of memories of the Doolittle store, May 17

Clyde Robbins, a retired firefighter who lives in Boring, was reminiscing recently about the Doolittle Store in downtown Troutdale, located in what is now the Oregon Country Quilt and Fabric store.

Robbins recalled that cold storage lockers in the basement leaked ammonia, which collected in the passageway that ran through the building. (It is now blocked by a wrought iron gate.)



"We'd come from down the hill from school," Robbins said, "and we'd sniff that ammonia. You got up a good head start down hill and ran right through trying not to breathe. It was easy on the downhill slope. And a lot harder when we ran back uphill."



We meet at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 17, first in Oregon Country Quilts and Fabrics, 236 E. Historic Columbia River Highway, where owners Susan Miller and Vickie Peterson show us around and where, we hope, the surroundings will provoke memories. Then to Troutdale City Hall about 2:30 p.m. to conduct the remainder of our meeting and to present our annual membership awards.

Awards? Our Member of the Year Award is a secret. We will have other presentations as well. This is our last program of the winter season. History meetings resume in October, while we devote the summer to running our museums.

Troutdale Rail Depot on line again

A dedicated crew, headed up by Marge Schmunk readied the Troutdale Rail Depot and End of the Line Museum Store for a new season.

Real train technology is part of the exhibit this year with the installation by Dallas Hovey, a new volunteer from Corbett and a retired Union Pacific railroader, of a working telegraph key and sounder. Hovey takes his place at the station agent's desk each Wednesday. Also lending an authentic note is another retired railroad worker, Jim Cook.

Marge Schmunk has filled the store with a wide variety of train and trout items and many educational toys. If

Calendar May & June



Programs

Sunday, May 17, 2 p.m.

History of the Doolittle store, 2 p.m. at Oregon Country Quilts and Fabrics, downtown Troutdale, then to Troutdale City Hall.

Board of Directors

Wednesday, May 6, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, June 1, 7 p.m.

In the barn. All members welcome.

Events

Saturday, May 2

Troutdale Rail Depot and End of the Line Museum Store open for the season, Wed-Sat, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, 1-4 p.m.

Saturday, June 6, 9 a.m.

GRAND OPENING

Troutdale barn museum and exhibit, **SMELT RUN!**

Saturday, June 6

Harlow House open for the season, Wed-Sat., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday 1-4 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday, June 6 & 7, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

... Annual Troutdale Ice Cream Social and plant sale, Glenn Otto Community Park, Harlow House and Rail Depot Museum

In this edition:

- △ An ice cream social flyer
- △ Ways to help out at the social
- △ First class at SMELT RUN!

-- store filled with train, trout goodies

you know a little kid -- or a big one -- who likes trains, the store is the right stop. The depot is open Wednesday

.....
"I told my wife I was going down to the depot today, and it sure sounded good to say that again."

Dallas Hovey,

Retired railroader and new depot volunteer

.....
through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 1-4 p.m. on Sundays.

GIFTS

TO THE BARN FUND
in honor of
Kaz & Helen Tamura

Kaz & Helen Tamura
John & Sumi Murakami
Kaz & Emi Kikkawa
Ole & Louella Waisanen
Sam & Nettie Cox
Taka Mizote
Edward & Aya Fujii
Shirley Yost
Ben & Darlene Demise
Douglas & Satsuko King
Bob & Mona Mitchoff
Dorothy Sturges
Bob & Annela Carlson
Helen Roberts
Gladys E. Reed
David Ripma
Bob Strebin
Mel & Amelia Celonia
Penny Balch
Adrienne Clausen
Bill & Sharon Nesbit

About our members...

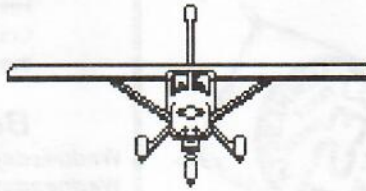
Shirley Yost gave a menu to our collection from the "Scenic Columbia Excursion Steamers," boats that once toured the river. No date, but prices might give a clue: Fried fresh chinook salmon, 75 cents; baked spaghetti, 35 cents; (each of the former including potatoes, vegetable, bread, butter and coffee.) A milk shake was 20 cents...**Marge Schmunk & Mona Mitchoff** volunteered to clean and paint the rear kitchen in the Harlow House... **Jim Cook** built shelves in the depot storage closet...**Sharon Nesbit** leads tours at 5 and 7 p.m., Thursday, May 21, at McMenamins Edgefield's anniversary party...At our March meeting **Garthe Brown** loaned photos taken on his family farm, now Lewis and Clark State Park, including a rare picture of a vintage outhouse...We left **Len Otto's** name out the list of barnstorm committee members in last month's newsletter...**Paula Goldie** agreed to be the fortune teller at Tea and Tour.

More memories of the airport

We received letters and notes following our February meeting on the Troutdale airport.

From Evelyn DeYoung: "On Memorial Day (1948), a Sunday, the Troutdale Airport was offering \$5 rides to view Portland, etc. My sister, Jo Callister, was working there and told us about the "big deal." So, we went with our 3-year-old son. My parents, Cedric and Frances Stone went, too.

They were in the plane in front of us. They witnessed the high



Columbia River breaking through the dike and railroad tracks north of Vanport. The pilot radioed back and told the airport, possibly a radio station too. Did they ever send out the alarm quickly!

It was sunny and warm; people and children were walking and playing at Vanport. When we got over the area the water was spreading out fast, boiling through the rapidly spreading hole. I'm sure that pilot saved many lives. I'll never forget that ride.

Our son, Howard, has worked out of the Forest Service area helping load tankers for fires when he worked for the Forest Service during the summers."

Sam spied Japanese treaty signed at Tokyo

Last month Sam Cox said no one should miss the chance to see the U.S.S. Missouri, the ship on which the Japanese surrender was signed, when it comes to Astoria this summer enroute to Hawaii.

Sam got to see the Missouri in Tokyo Bay on surrender day. He was in a U.S. Army outfit that sent prisoners of war home from the prison camps. "We were lying out on Sept. 2, 1945, and our pilot tipped the wings over the U.S. Missouri. Some of the Japanese were in top hats and tails. McArthur was seated and the Japanese General and others were standing."



Words of praise thanks and gee whiz.

Though many were dubious, an eager work party, some wearing those cute black cummerbunds that moving men have, stormed the barn March 28 clearing the main floor of nearly all the accumulation that has cluttered it for several years.

In preparation for Operation Clean Sweep, **Deb Cook** rounded up volunteers: **Mary Bryson, Sharon Nesbit, Bob Strebin** and **Marge Schmunk** tagged items and determined what to do with them.

On the appointed day came **Mary & Dennis Bryson, Bob & Mona Mitchoff, Marge Schmunk, Deb & Bob Cook, Sam Cox, Bob Strebin, Roy Hoover, John Fappas, Amber and Dave Kauth, James Cook, Jean Holman, Dave Ripma and Mario Ayala.** How do you get a buggy apart? Ask these guys.

Mike Dubesa, Len Otto, Cheryl Reagan and Bob Strebin worked on lights, floor and electrical fixtures. **Mary Bryson and Deb Cook** painted the interior. **Mike Alderson** continues to work in our shop storage area. **Bob Strebin** ordered signs, exit signs, restroom signs and numbers for the building. We are close. It has been 10 years.

In the depot...

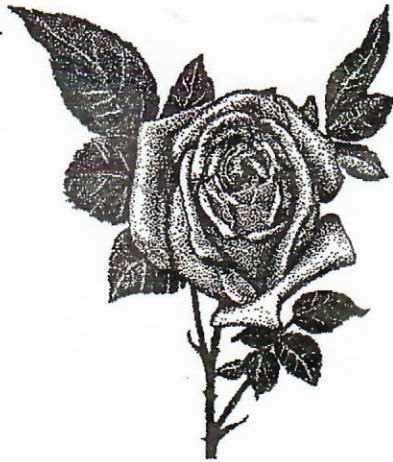
Marge Schmunk came to our first goal setting session a few years ago and offered to take on the rail depot, specifically the museum store, as her project.

By the time you get this newsletter, a spit and polish depot with a store full of great merchandise is open. Further, she has gathered a group of volunteers (though a few more are needed.) **Dallas Hovey, Jim Cook, Ed Schmunk, Debbie Schoepper, Sadie Riley, Dick Waite and Carolyn Taylor,** Marge's 2nd lieutenant, are signed on for the season. If you would like to help, telephone 661-2164.

Preparing for 30th annual ice cream social, June 6 & 7

We plan a special mailing in mid-May to remind you of our 30th annual ice cream social, Saturday and Sunday, June 6 & 7, in Glenn Otto Community Park, the Harlow House and the Troutdale Rail Depot.

Mailing issues with the post office have made it difficult to time mailings at the best time to remind our members, so please mark the dates on your calendar now.



□□□ A couple of new twists are added this year. At 9 a.m., Saturday, June 6, we will conduct grand opening ceremonies at the barn, letting visitors in to our first exhibit, **SMELT RUN!** Join us for this historic event.

□□□ The increase in events increases our need for volunteers. If you can help at ice cream social -- in the kitchen, hosting in the barn or the Harlow House, in the park, or at the set up -- please call **Florence Baker, 665-9656, or Dorothy Sturges, 666-9601.** It saves them a heap of work, if you call and offer, plus you get your choice of hours.

□□□ Set up is complicated this year because the park is booked Friday night, June 5. However, we will be there after 5 p.m. doing outside setup. **Frieda Ryland** asks you to bring cut flowers for the bouquets at that time so we have time to do arrangements.

□□□ Got a good spot for one of our signs? It has to be on private property. Give the Harlow House a call, 661-2164.

□□□ Say thanks to our sponsors: **Waste Management of Troutdale** and **Tom Miller, Massage Therapist.**

Namedroppers...Namedroppers

Sam Cox gave \$100 to have the mop boards installed in the barn. **Bob Strebin** did the painting...**Len Otto's** Sweetbriar 4th grade will be the first class to tour the smelt exhibit on Monday, June 8, only fitting as Len has worked so hard on the barnstorm committee...**Junki & Linda Yoshida** hosted our May 2 Tea & Tour on hearing that we hoped to make a \$2,500 profit to run the Harlow House this summer, offered to make up the difference if we did not...Studies are underway on the Harlow Canyon flood control project behind the Harlow House...**Vivian Boelke** has volunteered to share mailing duties of newsletters with **Joyce Stoeckel**...Would you believe it? Kelso, Wash., has also opened a smelt exhibit in its museum...thanks to **Mario Ayala** who addressed all our tea invitations.

In Memory --Merle M. Coons

As promised, the obituary of Merle M. Coons, Colonel USAF (Retired) who died Dec. 13, 1997, in the LDS Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah, from complications following heart surgery.

Merle was a lifetime member of the Troutdale Historical Society. He was born March 25, 1921, in Arlington to Milo M. and Helen F. Shurte Coons. He was raised in Troutdale and graduated from Gresham High School in 1941.

Col. Coons served 26 years in the United States Air Force. He flew 67 combat missions over Europe during World War II and earned the coveted title of Fighter Ace by destroying five German fighters in aerial combat. He was a graduate of USAF Command & Staff College, and USAF Air War College. His awards include the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal plus Nine Oak Leaf Clusters, Presidential Unit Citation, and various campaign medals.

After his military retirement in 1968, Col. Coons joined Northrop Corporation Aircraft Division in Hawthorne, Calif., where he enjoyed a second career of 18 years. He was manager of marketing research and development and then manager of marketing and sales for fighter aircraft. He traveled extensively and was well acquainted with leaders of foreign air forces and defense ministries. He retired in 1986.

His interests included the computer, golfing, woodworking, cooking and travel. He was a member of various air force associations as well as Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Elks Lodge, and the Rotary Club of Pocatello Idaho, where he lived. He is survived by his wife, Lois D. Coons.

Troutdale volunteers have good reasons to be proud

Recently, June Nasmyth was taking her turn hosting at the Harlow House when two groups of visitors arrived, saying they stopped because our grounds were "so well cared for." They toured the house and observed that it, too, was beautifully kept.

June was so proud of the compliment she carried it around for several days sharing it with those who went on the Trek to Tacoma.

The pretty woman is Michele Rosenberger, City of Troutdale parks department, who maintains our grounds with the help of Everett Smelser.

Consider hosting the Harlow House or depot museum this summer. Call **Jean Hybskmann to volunteer, 669-7822.** We have reduced Harlow House shifts to half days and would love to see some once-a-week hosts.



Troutdale Historical Society
104 S.E. Kibling Street
Troutdale, OR 97060

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Things to remember:
History of the Doolittle store,
May 17
Opening of barn and exhibit
June 6
Ice cream social
June 6 & 7



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Corbett firefighters to cook Flag Day breakfast

From 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday June 13, the Corbett Fire Department will hold an old-fashioned fire house breakfast in conjunction with antique car clubs making a tour of the Historic Columbia River Highway.

Antique fire engines will meet the cars at about 9 a.m. at Lewis and Clark State Park and escort them to the Corbett fire station at 36930 Historic Columbia River Highway. Proceeds from the breakfast (we are all invited) go to fund the Ferd Riehl Scholarship. Riehl is a pioneer member of the department who volunteered from 1949 until his retirement in 1995.

Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$2 for children.

March 9, 1923--Gresham Outlook

James Cook of Sandy River Garage has installed a radio. Wednesday night was the first it was in operation.

James Cook's radio is on display

Gifts

To the Barn

in memory of
Vera Strebin
 Katharine & David Carson
 Bill & Sharon Nesbit

in memory of
Bob Sturges
 Bill & Sharon Nesbit

in memory of
Dick Jones
 Bill & Sharon Nesbit

Sam Cox
 for baseboards

Endowment Fund

in memory of
Bob Sturges
 Mary Ellen King
 Ted & Lois Schulte
 Patricia Smith

in memory of
Merle Coons
 Ted & Lois Schulte

Treasurer's Report from Penny Balch

Cap. Imp. Fund, Harlow Hse....	\$19,925
Operating Fund.....	1,258
Barn Building Fund.....	3,509
Barn Exhibit Fund.....	10,987
Endowment Fund.....	31,484

Phone Numbers:

Harlow House -- 661-2164

Gifts

To the General Fund

in memory of
Merle Coons
 Bonnie Irwin

Director's Club

Bill & Sharon Nesbit
 David Ripma
 Jeanne Pulliam
 Colleen McCoy
 Susan Kay Hunter
 Kaz & Helen Tamura