

## LUCIA'S LETTER...

"We have been living in Oregon about two weeks, all of us except little John and him we left 12 miles this side of the Green River. He was killed instantly by falling from a wagon and the wheels running over his head..." That is how Lucia Bigelow Williams started the letter she wrote to her mother in Vermont in 1851.

Lucia's account of her trip over the Oregon Trail and Barlow Road will be read by her great-granddaughter Helen Althaus at the Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m., meeting of the Troutdale Historical Society in Troutdale City Hall.

This program is a popular re-run. It was first given to our society nearly 10 years ago but Lucia's adventures on the Oregon Trail are worth repeating. And our many new members since then will find this a very special history.

Pat Kenney is in charge of the refreshments following the meeting and Steve Kenney promises to have some fascinating old pictures to show.

**WEATHER WARNING:** As you know, the weather in these parts is most unpredictable in January. If there is ice or snow and driving is hazardous, the meeting is automatically cancelled.

## AND SPEAKING OF COLD...

Two refrigerators have come into our lives. The first is a copper-toned working model intended for the use of our caretakers in the Harlow House. Thanks to a donation of about \$40 from Neil Riegelmann of Riegelmann's appliances in Gresham we were able to buy a refrigerator from his store for only \$100. That happened to be an amount we had on hand because of a Christmas gift check from Nathalie Wilson. Thanks Nathalie and thanks Neil.

Subsequently we got a call from Dolly Graham and she has given us a wonderful 1922 refrigerator, the kind with the coil on top. With some minor repairs, it should still work. The coil-top refrigerator will become part of our permanent display. The other will eventually be installed on the back porch of the kitchen where we plan to build a kind of kitchenette for the use of the caretakers.

## AND SPEAKING OF WARMTH...

Our Christmas meeting at the Harlow House was a lovely event. "Oh, it smells so good," was the comment of most people who came in to our rooms filled with greens and the scent of spiced punch. We were delighted to get a box of juniper greens shipped to us by Charles and Edna Ellis from Hermiston and we hope they make that an annual tradition.

## AND MORE COMMENTS...

How about this comment from an eager Cub Scout who visited the Harlow House in December: The Scouts were looking at the Harlow mah-jong game and Sharon Nesbit explained that the game tiles were made of ivory. "Ivory comes from elephant tusks," offered one Scout. And then the kid in the back row said, "It also comes from piano keys."

## FLAV-R-PAK LABELS...

If you have been saving Flav-R-Pak labels, bring them to the January or February meetings and give them to Alex Jones. They are worth three cents apiece if redeemed in February.

## DID YOU REMEMBER?...

Our birthday meeting is in February and includes election of officers, payment of dues, birthday cake and, this year, a special program you won't want to miss on the history of Troutdale's buildings and who did what to whom in them. Our first nomination of officers is at the January meeting so come prepared if you want to run for president.