

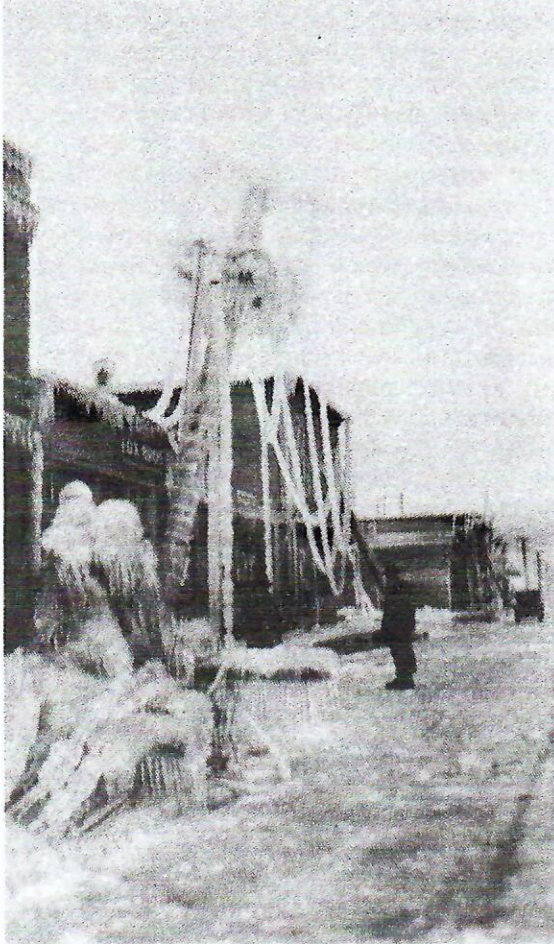
BYGONE TIMES

A Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March, 1995

Editor, Sharon Nesbit, 665-0423

EVERYBODY TALKS ABOUT THE WEATHER BUT...



The photo above, THS #0245, shows downtown Troutdale in the 1921 ice storm.

Join us at **2 p.m. on Sunday, March 19**, in Troutdale City Hall for a program called, "Everybody Talks About the Weather, But..."

When did John Nasmyth walk across the frozen Columbia River? When did we last row a boat on the Historic Columbia River Highway? We have pictures. We have stories. And we want your best weather stories and pictures, as well.

Bring snow stories, wind stories, flood stories. Plagues of locusts we'll deal with later.

The comfort of cookies will be offered afterward.

HEY, TREKKERS: SIGN UP FOR JAUNT TO JOHN DAY

We only have a few seats left on our 22-passenger bus for the three-day trek to John Day on May 5, 6, and 7th.

Our stops include museums in John Day, Prairie City and Canyon City, a tour of the Pendleton Underground as well as a visit to the John Day Fossil Beds. We plan a prime rib feast, some time for antique shopping and general merriment. Price for two nights in a John Day motel, one dinner, and all transportation and admissions is \$200, double occupancy, \$240 single occupancy.

The deadline to sign up for our members is April 1. To reserve your seat, send a check to us at the address on the back of this newsletter.

NEW MEMBER ROSTER MAILED IN THIS ISSUE

A goal we have had for sometime is to prepare a new membership roster for your use.

It was an exercise in frustration, says Director Ellen Brothers, because the minute she prepared an up-to-date list of our members, one of you moved and the whole thing was out of date. We convinced Ellen that it is not possible to make some 500 people hold still and that the best we can do is catch you in one place at one time and write it down.

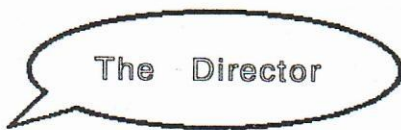
We finally did that, only to realize printing costs didn't fit in our budget, so this effort, except for the printing of the cover, is an all volunteer work.

Please thank Ellen Brothers for her patience, as well as Pat Brothers, Dave Ripma, Sharon Nesbit and Joyce Stoeckel. Joyce stapled every one of these books together and inserted it in your newsletter.

We note one mistake, the result of doing a hurry-up job after midnight. The date on the back cover of our society's beginning is incorrect. Troutdale Historical Society began life in 1968.

A special note: To simplify mailing and to avoid loss of your new membership cards, we will delay mailing membership cards until the April newsletter.

Our April 17 meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. in Troutdale City Hall. Subject: folk medicine.



Ellen Brothers Says:

We begin a new year with new officers. Please say thank you to Lynda Harvey and Helen Towsley for the work in the past two years as treasurer and secretary, respectively.

At our February meeting we elected officers. Our two newest are Treasurer Penny Balch and Secretary Jean Holman. Re-elected were President David Ripma, Vice president Sharon Nesbit and board members Len Otto, Dick Jones and Mike Dubesa.

Board meetings are 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month in the barn loft. You are always welcome.

KEEP THOSE DUES COMING IN, FOLKS

A reminder, if you received an envelope on your last newsletter, then you owe dues. Our dues schedule is as follows:

\$8 - Individual

\$12 - Couple

\$20 - Family

The Director's club, which supports our costs for a director includes a nice summer party, the dues are:

\$50 - Individual

\$75 - Couple

Director's club members for 1995, so far, are **Harvey & Betty Wieprecht, Jean Holman, Mike & Elaine Dubesa, Donna Hawkins, Bill & Sharon Strebin, Helen Otto, Lois Moller, Florence Baker, Ted & Alvera Binn and John & June Nasmyth.** (June said she thought John would like to sign up just one more time.)

JOHN NASMYTH'S FINAL BARN GIFT

Last week we received the final gift from John Nasmyth who died in January. John, our most faithful and enthusiastic barn donor, wanted the bulk of his estate to go to the barn.

In accordance with his wishes, June Nasmyth sent a check for \$20,000. It comes at a time when we are beginning plans for the exhibit on the ground floor of the barn.

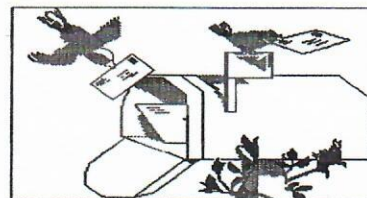
Ellen Brothers wrote June: *"I am not often at a loss for words, but I find that I am now. We are so appreciative of both you and John. We will try our best to make the barn exhibits worthy as a tribute to John...John's bequest will speed up the opening of the barn to the public, but that is bittersweet as we all miss him."*

Our barn exhibit design committee will be headed by Bob Strebin. Board member Len Otto is also active in that work. John Nasmyth's donation should help us hire a designer to begin a plan for the exhibit.

Watch the newsletter soon for an afternoon of brainstorming on the barn exhibit.

NAME DROPPERS

Mike Dubesa arranged for donation of two fireproof file cabinets for the barn. Next need? Strong backs and a pickup willing to deliver them...**Carolyn Taylor** inventoried our sales items at the Harlow House. The sales committee is at work on new products to improve income from gift items...**Dick Jones and Len Otto** will attend an exhibit on designing and building exhibits...**Stewart Harvey** took a photographic record of the old hired man's shack behind the Harlow House...**Marie Stone & Florence Baker** are bringing cookies for our April meeting...**Dick Jones** is on the mend from not one, but two, surgeries. He could use help with tasks in the barn...**Lorraine Scott**, daughter of the late Bill & Mary Wright, donated a collection of her mother's early glass plate negatives to our society.



GIFTS FROM OUR MEMBERS

TO THE BARN FUND
Robin & Cindy Lehman

TO THE GENERAL FUND
Bill & Darlene Payne, Jean Holman, Bill & Sharon Strebin, Mona & Rocky Denton, David Rees, David Underhill, Adrienne Clausen, Ted & Alvera Binn, Bonita Jenkins, Gloria Ladum, Gerald & and Madeline Grimm

TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND
Robin & Cindy Lehman

MEMORIAL GIFTS to the barn fund in memory of JOHN NASMYTH
Pearl Ramseth
John & Ruth Denison
Doris & Theresa Wooley
Ray & Louise Blohm & family
Marie Dunlop
Bernice & Donn Lofgren
Verena Hage & family
Pat & Ellen Brothers
Evelyn Jacobson
Ted & Lois Schulte
Sam & Nancy Cox
Donna Hawkins
Joe & Alice Railey
Florence & Ed Happold

HISTORY OF THE OLD POTATO SHED

Alice Wand -- Jan. 15, 1995

(Note: Alice Wand, a member of our society's program committee, researched the history of the potato shed that is now the Caswell Gallery for our January meeting at the gallery. Thanks to Alice, who spent considerable time studying documents donated by the family of M.B. McKay, we have a solid history of the potato shed. Also thanks to Connie Purvis, who transcribed the tape so we could present it here.)

We can't think of the old potato shed without thinking of a couple of men's dreams.

M.B. McKay got his plant pathology degree from Wisconsin. He spent time in various federal government stations working with diseases of vegetables and cotton. He published several papers. He was sent to Colorado to work under Venus P. Pool, who became his wife. She wrote a paper as early as 1907 about tomato fruit rot. She researched her master's degree at the University of Nebraska. She helped with several publications before Mr. McKay joined her. One was on the dry rot of the Irish potato. So you see, she was mixed up with potatoes a long time ago. That was 1913. M.B. McKay and Venus Pool worked closely together on diseases of potatoes and both published together in 1914. He resigned his position with the Bureau of Plant Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture to accept a position with the Oregon Agricultural College in Corvallis. His wife assisted him at OAC, now Oregon State University. In 1915 they wrote Memento of the Strawberry. After that he managed Oregon Bulb Farms for several years, helping to locate it near Dodge Park.

The photo at right is THS #0154 and shows Bob Seidl holding a 100-pound sack of Seidl seed potatoes.



In the early 1930s, with their two children, Morris and Muriel, they moved to the Corbett area. His goal, when he came to our area, was to prove that the farmer could make a profit. He raised certified seed potatoes. Morris helped him build a potato planter. Also, he (Morris) built a hearing aid for his mother out of a Victrola and a radio -- and went to war -- and never came back.

Mr. McKay encouraged local farmers to raise certified seed potatoes. They formed the Troutdale Seed Potato Association with Mr. McKay as marketer. This group, in 1940 built this old potato shed. The potato shed cost \$10,000 and the group raised the money. It had 102 bins. Seventeen bins on either side and two doubles rows of 17 each. Each bin held 360 sacks of potatoes.

(Troutdale Historical Society files include a Union Pacific pamphlet about potatoes in the west with an article written by McKay. Also included are pictures of Mr. and Mrs. McKay in their experimental area on Mershon Road in Corbett.)

Right about that time we were having a war with Germany and that is when our problem started about getting sacks. We had to go through quite a lot of work to try to get sacks and finally in 1942 they had a deal through U.S. Senator McNary who helped them get a lease on sacks. They weren't all burlap, they had to be either cotton or paper.

The building was concrete walls, eight feet up and the wood on either side. The inside wall had wood flake insulation, which is different that we use now. McKay marketed the potatoes under the logo of Oregon Cascade Mountain Red Seed Potatoes in two colors. It would be nice if we could find some of those sacks for our Troutdale Historical Society barn. Anybody that knows of anyone who might have some, we would like to get them.

This history of the potato shed/gallery continues next month.

MEMORIAL GIFTS
 to the barn fund
In memory of ART GRIMM
 Margaret Grimm
In memory of BOB HUGHES
 Mary Hughes
 to the endowment fund
In memory of LEE IRWIN
 Lola Lumsden
 Malcolm & Virginia Boslar
 Helen Althaus
 June Jones
In memory of Rev. WILLIAM HURN
 Mike & Pauline Morrow
In memory of FRANK KAISER
 Sam & Nancy Cox
 Chuck & Elaine Blanchard

EVENTS AT OTHER HISTORICAL VENUES

People who wish to be part of the restoration of the Zimmerman House, 171st and Sandy Boulevard, have until April 20 to be charter members of Friends of the Zimmerman House. The charter fee is \$25. Send a check marked FOZH to Fairview Rockwood Wilkes Historical Society, PO Box 946, Fairview, OR 97024.

The first Zimmerman House work party is 9 a.m., Saturday March 18, at the property. Bring gloves, brush cutters and a sack lunch.

The Fairview Rockwood Wilkes folks plan a yard sale May 6 & 7 at the Heslin House. They want donations of sale items except clothing. Call 665-3253.

CAN YOU GIVE ONE DAY A MONTH? Ellen Brothers will be signing up hosts for both our depot museum and the Harlow House for the summer -- May through September. Harlow House hours are changed this year to 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Could you take one day? Call 661-2164.

STEERING COMMITTEE IS ON THE LOOSE

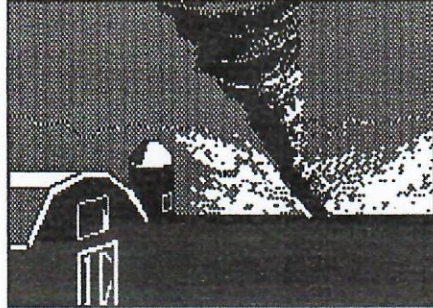
Mona Mitchoff launched the steering committee to begin planning our ice cream social and fall Harvest Faire. Meetings are at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. Lots of fun. Good food. Fun stuff to do. If you want to join the team, give her a call at 666-5455.

TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 104 S.E. KIBLING ST.
 TROUTDALE, OR
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EVERYBODY TALKS



ABOUT THE WEATHER, BUT...
 2 p.m. March 19, Troutdale
 City Hall