

Bygone Times

Newsletter of the

Troutdale Historical Society

November/December 2009

Mark your Calendar

**November 15
Wild Beauty:**

**Photographs of the
Columbia River Gorge,
1867-1957**

Presentation by John
Laursen

Books will be available
for sale at the program
meeting to be held at
Troutdale City Hall from
2-4 p.m. Refreshments
following presentation.
For more information,
please call the office at
503-661-2164.

**November 27-28
The Gresham Historical
Society Rummage
Sale is Back!**

Donations are needed
and can be dropped off
at the museum at 410 N.
Main St. in Gresham
Tuesday, Thursday or
Saturday from Noon-4.
Call 503-661-0347 for
more info. At press time,
the sale was scheduled to
be held in the old J. C.
Penney building in
downtown Gresham.

**Edna Bramhall Ellis,
Kaz Tamura and
Florence Baker have
all passed away this
week.. More in Janu-
ary Issue.**

November Program:

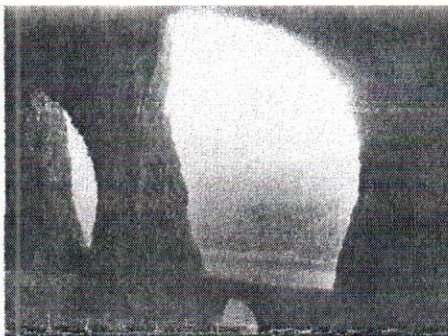
Wild Beauty

Wild Beauty illuminates the rich photographic heritage of one of the most magnificent landforms of the American West with 134 images by three dozen photographers, including Carleton Watkins, Benjamin Gifford, Fred Kiser, Lily White, Sarah Ladd, Alfred Monner, and Ray Atkeson. These rare photographs, most of them previously unpublished, have been meticulously restored and then carefully reproduced in four-color process to capture the nuanced tones and subtle coloring of albumen silver prints, gelatin silver prints, platinum prints, hand-colored photographs, and early Kodachromes.

The Columbia Gorge exerts a powerful influence on the lives and imaginations of those who live in the region, and those who visit. As the only near-sea-level passage through the Cascade Range, it was a corridor of trade and a center of culture for Native Americans for thousands of years. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, Lewis and Clark traced their westward path of exploration through the Gorge, and half a century later the early emigrant wagon trains followed the same course to the

Pacific Northwest.

On expeditions to the Gorge in 1867 and again in the early 1880s, Carleton Watkins produced what are widely considered to be some of the greatest landscape photographs ever made. The place Watkins saw



still looked much as it had when the first Euro-Americans arrived, and indeed as it had for centuries before: the Columbia River was a wild and powerful free-flowing torrent, the basalt formations of the Gorge vulnerable to the ceaseless erosions of water and weather but seemingly impervious to the effects of human presence.

The newcomers, though, had a penchant for revision. The landscape of the Gorge was altered in the nineteenth century by the advent of rail and early in the twentieth by the Columbia River Highway. And the river itself was

transformed, incrementally at first by the construction of locks and canals, and then fundamentally by hydroelectric dams.

Much of the extraordinary work created during this period by Watkins and his successors has never been available to public view. The original prints or negatives are fragile; they exist today primarily because they have been preserved in archival collections. Now, in Wild Beauty, the authors present some of the finest surviving photographs of the Columbia River

Gorge framed by insightful text, offering us a portrait of one of the West's primal landscapes through nearly a century of dramatic change.

The story of the American West is written across the surface of the

Columbia River. Wild Beauty captures not only the shores, but the complex and conflicting histories that have played out in the Columbia River Gorge over the past two centuries. Most important, these photographs reveal what has been hidden beneath the waters, unfolding the distinctive geology of the Gorge and bringing back to life a Columbia we can now only imagine. Wild Beauty is a gift to the Columbia and to all who love this majestic and elegant river."

— Toby Jurovics, Curator of Photography, Smithsonian American Art Museum

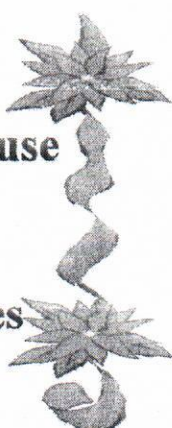
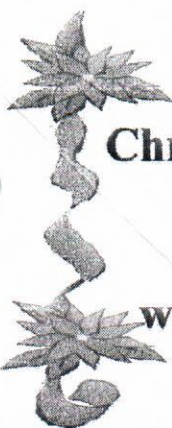
December 5

**Christmas Open House
at**

Harlow House

**with Santa, cookies
and Wassail.**

11-4



**Volunteers Needed:
Harlow House & Barn Museums
Third Saturday of each month!**

Busy times at THS!

A HUGE thank you to Multnomah County Work Crew, Waste Management, Metro and the City of Troutdale! The row of "shrubs" between the Depot and Troutdale House have been greatly reduced in size and the dirt on the east side of the Depot

has been cut back by a couple of feet. It looks so much better!

The picture of the Blaser house brings back memories. Sorry MOM, it must be told! Mayor Blaser had a crab apple tree on his property that hung way over his fence on the Jackson Park Road side. In the late summer when the apples were ripe, there would be so many apples on the tree that the limbs would hang down and almost touch the ground. We could hide under there and not be seen.

At Mom's request, we would go down and "borrow" enough crab apples for many batches of jelly. Yum!...Mayor Blaser never used any of the apples, but he would sure yell when he heard us out there...but sadly, the tree is now gone with all the construction on the corner of the highway and Jackson Park. I also know for a fact that if any of the apples got thrown at cars, MY BROTHERS DID IT!

I fondly remember Helen Otto and having grown up with all the Otto kids. She will be greatly missed by the Troutdale Community and all who knew her.

Another fond memory is buying gas at Mike's! Mike & Pauline Morrow were almost always at the gas station. You could charge your gas, soda and

cigarettes and go back and pay them on payday...so sad those days are long gone.

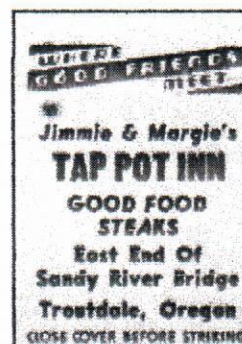
Have a Happy Holidays!

Terry



The Blaser home has been purchased by Chris Rode and is going to be restored to its original splendor. Watch the progress in the coming months!

Does anyone remember the Tap Pot Inn?



Helen Otto

Helen Dombkowski Otto, wife and legislative assistant to the late East County senator and form Troutdale mayor Glenn Otto, died Oct. 13, at the age of 90.

A veteran of the Army Nurse Corps in World War II and a founder of the Troutdale Historical Society, Otto and her husband, the late Glenn Otto, both Democrats, served in Salem for 20 years before his retirement in 1993. Glenn began his political career as mayor of Troutdale and then was elected

to the house and later the senate.

Three of her brothers, and Helen, who joined the Army Nurse Corps, served in World War II. Helen nursed in military hospitals in Italy, caring for her brother who was injured in the push for Monte Cassino. She was still in Italy when a letter sent to her eldest brother was returned marked "Killed in Action." He is buried near Saint-Lo in France.

Her wartime connections created friendships with westerners who urged her to come to Oregon.

"I was the only one of my family who went so far," she said. She met Glenn Otto, a young Navy veteran, on her first day at Vanport College.

One of the early dates was to take in the smelt run on the Sandy River at Troutdale. The two were married in January 1949. They had two children when they moved into a restaurant on the edge of the Sandy River at the west end of the Troutdale bridge. The combination restaurant/home was in the thick of every smelt run for years. The Otto front yard the site of a hamburger stand, a

net concession and smelt-by-the-pound sales.

Troutdale was well under 600 in population. Glenn Otto, riled by an issue over water meters, became involved in local politics and was elected mayor in 1966.

Helen and her husband suggested creating a historical society in the rapidly changing city. "The result was the founding in 1968 of the Troutdale Historical society. Helen Otto remained on the board for most of the early years of the organization.

From Sharon Nesbit

Mike Morrow

Mike Morrow, who died Oct. 4 at the age of 80 in his home at Summerplace, was the Fairview gas station guy who always washed your windshield and checked your oil.

Morrow, and his wife Pauline, who survives him, operated the Fairview Shell and adjacent

grocery store at the corner of Sandy Boulevard and Fairview Avenue for 33 years, beginning in 1954. Both volunteered for the Troutdale Historical Society in their retirement years.

The Fairview gas station was built more than 85 years ago on Sandy Boulevard, then the route to the Columbia River Highway through the Columbia River

Gorge. Their station, along with other historic gas stations strung along the highway, were stops for refreshment, repairs and fuel for early-day motorists. The Morrows were friends of other longtime gas station owners, Ike and June Handy in Troutdale and Bob and Nev Scott in Springdale.

In the early days, attendants

wore uniforms, the station offered charge accounts, a mechanic on duty and a place to cash a paycheck.

"On payday the workers from Reynolds Metals (in Troutdale) would be lined up out the door to cash their pay checks and they'd pay off their bills at the same time," Pauline Morrow said.

From Sharon Nesbit

Troutdale/Fairview Reunion

It was a meager turnout Oct. 11 for our Fairview/Troutdale school reunion, about 15 people, but a few connections were made and memories recalled.

Society president Scott Cunningham reminded us that no matter where you live after you grow up, your roots are where you went to school. Herb and Clover Nasmyth were there

and he recalled that he had an insistent Troutdale teacher who wanted curves on the top of his letter 'm,' a feat that Herb says he still has not conquered.

Gary Holman recalled being in the first class from Troutdale to go to middle school, and how upset both parents and students were at cutting two years off the experience at Troutdale grade school.

Doris Cereghino Caramella remember standing on top of the Ocean Wave, a lethal kind of

merry-go-round since banned from school grounds, and the fall that cut her chin and left a lifelong scar.

Carole Klinger came with her Fairview beanie and a store of Fairview Grade School pictures as did Alvin Leroy Roberts who attended Fairview in the 1930s. Roberts connected with classmate Jo Stone Callister, so the two enjoyed going over photos. Roberts has been working abroad most of his life and is back in the community and ea-

ger to find classmates. (Herb Nasmyth remembered that Roberts' father owned a buzz saw and cut most of the stove wood in the area.)

Roberts can be contacted at his daughter's home in Gresham, 503-465-0653.

Both Cunningham and Ven. Rathman spoke of teacher Helen Fehrenbacher, who turned 103 in October, remembering what a great contribution she made to their education.

From Sharon Nesbit

Len Otto
503-663-0794
Len@HonorYourPast.com

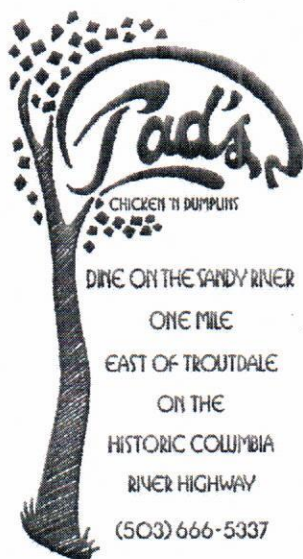
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Troutdale Historical Society
 104 SE Kibling St.
 Troutdale, OR 97060
 Phone 503-661-2164
 www.troutdalehistory.org

Mission Statement:

To gather, preserve and make available material relating to the history of the community of Troutdale, the Sandy River, the Columbia River Gorge and nearby area:
 To stimulate interest in, and knowledge of, the locality's past.

**Non Profit
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Troutdale, OR

Permit No. 5

Change service requested

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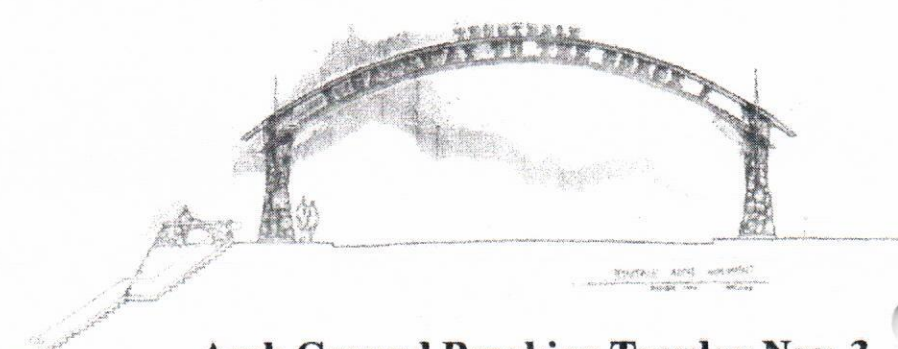
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Our Thanks...from THS...to the following for their support



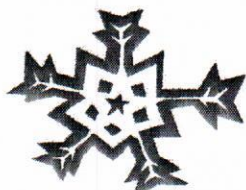
**Arch Ground Breaking Tuesday Nov. 3
 at Noon in front of Chamber
 Office next door to Plaid Pantry.**

Centennial Monument Donations

Final (for real) Deadline!

February 14, 2010

**To get your name included on the Arch Monument
 with a \$1000 or more donation.**



**In the event of icy or snowy weather and hazardous driving conditions, our meetings will be automatically cancelled. We will do our best to post such a message on the THS answering machine, 503-661-2164.
 If you have a cold or the flu, PLEASE STAY HOME!**