

BYGONE TIMES

A Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October, 2000

Sharon Nesbit, Editor, 665-0423

A reunion at historic Cedar School on Troutdale Road

It will be a homecoming for all those who have ties to Cedar school -- when we meet for our annual school reunion -- that counts you guys from Troutdale School, too-- when we meet for our annual school union at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 14, in Cedar School, 2326 S.E. Troutdale Road.



New owners of the little brick school house are Mark and Colleen Kelsey and they are anxious to learn all they can about their school/home/studio.

We gather for reminiscence and refreshment and a program in the old auditorium featuring memories of those who attended or taught there. If you have pictures or other mementos, by all means bring them to share.

Cedar School was once in a district of its own and had its beginnings in a building of cedar logs in 1857. It may have predated Troutdale School.

In her history of the school written in 1949, Mrs. Albert Quay spoke of that first log school and the community attempt to get it together. "Books were collected from the community. It is said that some of the arithmetic books used were so difficult that the members of the community were called upon to help the teacher solve the problems."

In about 1886 a frame one-room school house was built in a different location. In 1908, Cedar School district divided in a bitter fight and the Victory school district, farther east on 302nd Avenue, was founded. The present brick school building, the third structure to be called Cedar School, was erected in 1926. In 1940 the Cedar School district was consolidated with Troutdale and during the war years when Troutdale school was bursting, the building was used to supplement Troutdale classrooms.

Homecomings have been a feature at the school ever since. One of the first was in 1931. In 1976, graduates of Cedar School convened again. They included Kaz Tamura, Bonnie Townsend Irwin, former teacher Crystal Bayley the late Bill Baker and many others who figure in our historical society. We will welcome some of them again to Cedar School on Oct. 14.

Calendar

October/November

Board of Directors Meeting
Wed., Oct. 4, 7 p.m.
Wed., Nov. 1, 7 p.m.
In the barn

Trek to Washington County
Sat., Oct. 7, 8:30 a.m.
Bus leaves the Harlow House.

Cedar/Troutdale School Reunion
Sat., Oct. 14, 2 p.m.
Cedar School, 2326 S.E. Troutdale Road

Walking Tour for our Volunteers
Sat., Oct. 21, 1 p.m.
Mayors Square, Downtown Troutdale

An interview with Ike & June Handy
Sun., Nov. 19, 2 p.m.
Live interview in Troutdale City Hall.



New director likely in November

Negotiations are concluding at this writing for the hiring of our first full-time historical society director. Our candidate has been through a two-round interview process and we await a final contract and some fine-tuning from President David Ripma before making the announcement.

Walking our socks off in October

No one has had time to count, but our crew of tour leaders has been busy in September and will meet a record number of obligations in October. We have a senior group on Oct. 3 and a school tour for two Sweetbriar School fifth grade classes on Thursday, Oct. 5. The latter joins Mayor Paul Thalhoffer for a lesson in civics in city hall. Then, our trek to Washington county and environs on Oct. 7. We host three classes of Troutdale School fifth graders on Oct. 4, 9 and 16. These groups are particularly interested in the Harlows and their founding of the community and our Troutdale time line. Historian Sharon Nesbit talks to a senior group, the Acorns, Oct. 20 and leads a thank-you tour for volunteers on Oct. 21. Tour volunteers are Jean Hybskmann, Mary Bryson, Adrienne Clausen and Georgene Penketh. If you are interested in training as a tour leader, this is a good time to call and join us.

Namedroppers

Harlow family genealogist **Ginger Harlow Allen** and her husband, **Chuck**, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Sept. 10 at McMenamins Edgefield, "The Poor Farm," to most old timers. **Sharon Nesbit** led a tour of Edgefield followed by a visit to the Harlow House where many party guests remembered it from the days when Lou and Laura Harlow lived there. A special feature of the Harlow House opening was an appearance by **Connie Purvis**, in her role as Laura Harlow...**Nancy Cox**, **Sharon Nesbit** and **Jodi Smoke** all got a rousing chorus of Happy Birthday at the annual Director's Club picnic on Labor Day. About 30 people attended the barbecue at President **David Ripma's** Sweetbriar Farm home. The event is a thank you for members who pay extra dues to help finance our director...Because her husband, **Harley**, is in ill health, our loyal depot volunteer **Carolyn Taylor** has taken a leave of absence from her traditional hosting duties. Carolyn has been a pillar of our depot hosting crew for several years. Other depot stalwarts are **Jim Cook**, **Bill Payne** and **Marge Schmunk**... Thank you, too, to our September museum hosts, **Pat Smith**, **Jack & Marion Burns**, **Florence Baker**, **Donna McCollister**, **Crystal Bayley**, **Adrienne Clausen**, **Jerry & Jean Hybskmann**..Harlow House museum as of Oct. 1 reduces hours in the winter to Saturday and Sunday afternoons, 1 to 4 p.m. The depot will remain open through fall when volunteers are available. Volunteer coordinator, **Adrienne Clausen** needs to fill our calendar, so if you can help, telephone her at 663-0895...Speaking of the Harlow House, our office staff person, **Carnetta Boyd**, found a good plumber who has solved the odor problems in the house and also installed a new "old" vintage toilet, more suitable to the Harlow House. We have flushed with success.

Hear, Hear! Cheer good folks of Harvest Faire

Chairwoman Marie Miller led our Steering Committee through our 11th annual Harvest Faire Sept. 16 and 17.

Though we do not have firm numbers back yet on the crowds (or the profit), we know there was one pie left and it took three times the amount of chili expected and a ton of dumplings.

"Tad's made a very welcome return to Harvest Faire. The weather was nearly perfect and we enjoyed good crowds both Saturday & Sunday. There were a total of 29 vendors, who enjoyed the Faire this year. Music was provided by the Five Mountain Brass on Saturday afternoon, and the Dover Weinberg Quartet on Sunday," Marie says.

Please acknowledge the hard workers of our committee: **Jean Holman**, **Adrienne Clauson**, **Florence Baker**, **Dorothy Sturges**, **Frieda Ryland**, **Mona Mitchoff**, **Cindy Hammond**, **Marge Schmunk** and **Sadie Riley**.

And our sponsors:

Clackamas County Bank
Columbia Gorge Premium
Outlets
Nostalgia Antiques
Multnomah Greyhound Park
Reynolds Metals
Waste Management
Inn America

And our volunteers: **Dennis Ryland**, **Ed Schmunk**, **Jean & Jerry Hybskmann**, **Penny Balch**, **David Ripma**, **Carnetta Boyd**, **Bob Strebin**, **Judy Jones** and her gang from Tad's, **Susan Scott** and the **Corbett Children's Theatre**, **Michelle Rosenberg & Everett Schmeltzer** from Troutdale City Parks, **Doug & Leslie Daoust**, **Mike Dubesa**, **Paul Thalhofer**, **Rae, Gene & Brad Lajoie**, **Martha Booheister**, **Sharon Petri**, **Ed & Florence Happold**, **Debbie Schoepper**, **Betty & Harvey Wiewrecht**, **Pat Smith**, **Mike & Pauline Morrow**, **Vivian Boelke**, **Juanita Espenel**, **Karen Jordan**, **Debbie Curtis**, **Jan Vandiver**, **June Nasmyth**, **Doris Woolley**, **Evelyn Jacobson**, **Carnetta Boyd**, **Frank & Jeanne Driver**, Troutdale's Mom's Club, **Gary Holman** and all the wonderful pie bakers!



A GIFT FOR OUR LOYAL VOLUNTEERS

WE HEAR THAT THOSE WHO WORK AT OUR FESTIVALS AND HOST OUR MUSEUMS HAVE NOT HAD THE

CHANCE TO JOIN ONE OF SHARON NESBIT'S WALKING HISTORY TOURS OF TROUTDALE.

IF YOU VOLUNTEERED AT HARVEST FAIRE OR ICE CREAM SOCIAL OR HOSTED A MUSEUM THIS YEAR...

PLEASE BE OUR GUEST
BEGINNING AT
1 P.M. SATURDAY, OCT. 21,
MAYORS SQUARE, IN
DOWNTOWN TROUTDALE FOR
A WALKING HISTORY TOUR OF
ABOUT SIX BLOCKS,
FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENT
IN THE BARN
AND A TOKEN OF OUR THANKS

RESERVATIONS ARE NOT REQUIRED, BUT IF YOU CAN, PHONE 661-2164 TO LET US KNOW.

VOLUNTEER WILL SHEPHERD OUR PHOTO COLLECTION

Doneva Shepard, who has a long interest in things historical in our community, has volunteered to take on the job of being the photo librarian of the Troutdale Historical Society photo collection.

She replaces Beverly Welker, who pioneered as the photo librarian, setting up our system and cataloging thousands of photos and slides.

Shepard, a long time resident of East Multnomah County, came to our attention when she sent a photo found on the Internet and began reminiscing about a feed store in Troutdale that sold beet pulp. Ostensibly for animal feed, Shepard admits that humans thought it was pretty good, too.

Doneva and Beverly will begin training on the photo library on a computer donated for that purpose by Beverly.

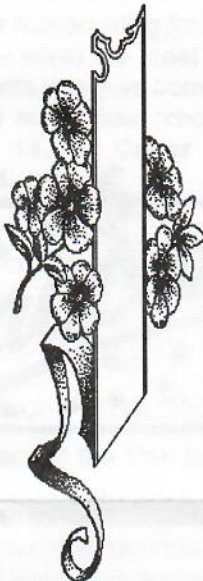
Vintage evening pays off in Harlow tea party

Dawn Hudson, the highest bidder at the wine dinner auction for a High Tea at the Harlow House, enjoyed the fruits of her bidding Saturday, September 23rd. She and six guests met around a table decorated with Fairy Roses, fine china and silver.

The menu: crab bisque, cucumber and dill nibblers, baby greens in a salad with poached salmon, avocado, mandarin oranges, dressed with orange vinaigrette, and rolls and butter.

To finish, dessert of Death by Chocolate cake spiked with plum sauce and topped with whipped cream, all served, of course, with tea. The ladies toured the Harlow House, supped gourmet delights and shared conversation and pots of steaming tea.

The tea-luncheon-feast offered by Jean Hybskmann was auctioned off at our June Vintage Evening at McMenamins. Jean adds that she can make the luncheon available to others for a generous donation to the Harlow House and that summer tea on the front porch is a lovely event. Contact the Harlow House office and Jean to talk about possibilities.



Visiting at Harlow House in September was **Ruth Evans Sundling**, whose family was the last to live in the home. Ruth, recovering from a broken hip, enjoyed her trip through the house...And via our Internet connection, we were contacted by the **Colbath** family association interested in learning that their ancestor **Celestia Colbath Harlow** helped found Troutdale.

News from all over the place

At Harlow House: **Carnetta & Sonny Boyd** made a gift of a computer to the Harlow House office. Carnetta installed the programs. And **Jean Hybskmann**, who worked back-up in our office all summer donated a new printer.

In addition to the new 'john' mentioned elsewhere in these pages, the wiring has been completed and the Harlow House electricity is all underground, a gift of **Ed & Vera Ashley**. We have new sidewalks out front that were completed in June. We soon will have new paving on the highway and, we hope, a new sign.

On the trail behind the Harlow House, to be dedicated this fall as **Robins Way** in memory of the **Dix** family, we have the memorial boulder in place. The Dixes also purchased a bench and a picnic table for the use of visitors to the site.

In the Barn: A new to us computer donated by **Beverly Welker** is in place upstairs so **Doneva Shepard** can begin work in our photo collection. We have thousands of photos cataloged and probably a thousand more to go.

And we have contracted with Lewis and Clark historian **Barb Kubik** to write and research a history of the explorers in our area to be used in developing a Lewis and Clark exhibit. Barn chairman **Bob Strebin** will attend two important conferences on the subject during the fall.

At the Depot: A considerable effort by volunteers kept our depot open this summer. **Marge Schmunk**, who founded our depot store and has been its mainstay, announced that she will retire from that job Jan. 1.

In the meantime, we continue to push a project to turn the offices at the east end of the depot into a Troutdale visitor center hosted jointly by the Troutdale Area Chamber of Commerce and our historical society.

Karen Jordan is our new scrapbook editor, recording our society's history.

Gifts

To full-time director fund
The Larson Legacy

To the endowment fund
in memory of
Helen Tamura

Adrienne Clausen
Bob & Florence Baker
Vaden & Jo Callister
Bob & Louise Dix
Mona & Robert Mitchoff
Sharon & Bill Nesbit
Helen Otto
Jerald & Carolyn Shonk
Bob Strebin
Sharon & Bill Strebin
Kaz Tamura
Annell & Bob Carlson
Donna Hawkins
Walter & Lorraine Mackey
Jeanne & Frank Driver

To the endowment fund
in memory of
Edna Alexander

Gordon & Ione Doolittle
Gerald & Shirley Lambert

To the endowment fund
in memory of
Sid Britton

Bob & Louise Dix

To the Director's Club
Mike & Diane McKeel

To the General Fund
Rae Lajoie

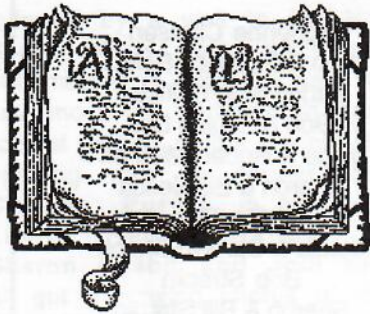
From Troutdale to Munich

Doneva Shepard found some farm pictures from Eastern Washington in our photo collection and set out to return them the area or people who would appreciate them. Her Internet search led her to Harald R. Young in Munich, Germany, who said the farmer in the picture was Adolph Irmer, his great-grandfather. The farm, apparently is in Whitman County in Washington.

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

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OCT. 14

Volunteer profiles on hold for education

For the last few months Arlene Wands volunteered her considerable talent in interviewing and writing profiles on our volunteers.

She enjoyed her many contacts with our members and learned much about our history. The chance to write again inspired her to return to college full time so she put the volunteer work on hold for a time. Until she returns, we'll fill this space with other items and submissions from our members. Our thanks to Arlene for her good work.

A change in our programs

Because appraiser Harvey Steele decided to sneak away from the Northwest in January, we will not have our antique appraisal program as announced in the calendar you received last month.

Program committee worker Helen Wand is working on an alternate idea.

Also, please be aware that our November meeting is a formal business meeting to vote on an increase in our dues.

Letters from Newt

Dec. 27, 1914

Well guess I have bargained for the Wilson house, I seen the guy yesterday and seemed very anxious for us to take it, he offered it to me for seven dollars a month, and he will furnish the felt to put on the wall to paper over, and I am to put it on and paper it myself, and get four months free, but I told him I would not give him seven, but would give him six and he furnish the felt and I would put it on and furnish the paper and paper it, and then we can get what ever kind of paper we want and the four months free rent will give us a good chance to make some good payments on the furniture, it will probably cost us about six or seven dollars for paper for the four rooms...I think it will make us a dandy little place, and if I want any garden will put that old lot right south of it in, and maybe I can get that old house for tearing it down and that would make us enough wood to last us a year.

Newt Parsons worked at the Troutdale Rail Depot first for the Oregon Washington Railroad and navigation Company and later for Union Pacific. His wife, Mary, and children Faye and Dale, visited their family in the east while he stayed behind writing lonesome letters on the depot typewriter. The letters became part of the family treasure after Newt died in 1918 in the Spanish Flu epidemic. His daughter, Faye, would marry Sam Harlow.

Why Troutdale went dry: Obituary of Mrs. Surber

The circumstances behind the 1915 vote to close Troutdale's saloons have always been somewhat of a mystery. Women had voted for the first time in the city election a year before, naming Clara Larsson to the mayor's post. But Clara, whose husband owned a saloon, was in favor of suffrage, not temperance.

The job of shutting off the flow of alcohol in Troutdale apparently fell to Louisa Surber. When she died Oct. 15, 1919, at her home in Pleasant View, her obituary credited her as the leader of a campaign to make Troutdale a temperance community a year before the State of Oregon went dry. Mrs. Surber, the obituary said, was a "consistent member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church." She and her husband moved to Troutdale about 1901. Her children were Arthur and Roy Surber and Mrs. Clarence Bloyd. She is buried at Douglass Cemetery.