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 1906, 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.

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 Sweetbrier School fifth grade classes on Thursday, Oct. 5. The latter joins Mayor Paul Thalhofer 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 Harfows 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.
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 Clausen, Florence Baker, Dorothy Sturgeon, 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 Strehlin, Judy Jones and her gang from Tad's, Susan Scott and the Corbett Children's Theatre, Michelle Rosenberg & Everett Schmetzer from Troutdale City Parks, Doug & Leslie Daoust, Mike Dubesa, Paul Thalhofer, Rae, Gene & Brad Lapio, Martha Booheister, Sharon Patri, Ed & Florence Happold, Debbie Schoeppe, Betty & Harvey Wiprecht, Pat Smith, Mike & Pauline Morrow, Vivian Boelke, Juanita Espenal, Karen Jordan, Debbie Curtis, Jan Vandiver, June Nasmith, 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

Donova 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 Walker, 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 reenacting about a feed store in Troutdale that sold beet pulp. Ostensibly for animal feed, Shepard admits that humans thought it was pretty good, too.

Donova and Beverly will begin training on the photo library on a computer donated for that purpose by Beverly.
News from all over the place

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 Hybskman 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.

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.

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 Lajole

From Troutdale to Munich

Donova 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.
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 Ward 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 some 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 Boyd. She is buried at Douglass Cemetery.