

Bygone Times

Newsletter of The Troutdale Historical Society.



DECEMBER, 1987

EDITOR: Sharon Nesbit, 665-0423

A CINNAMON AND APPLE CHRISTMAS, DEC. 19....

The Harlow House opens for the Christmas holidays on Saturday, Dec. 19, at 726 E. Historic Columbia River Highway, with a brand new kitchen floor, sparkling new paint, a truck load of Christmas greenery and an exhibit of little Billy Baker's favorite toys.

Instead of our regular meeting, we ask you to come that day and take part in our Christmas open house from 1 to 4 p.m. Santa will be sitting by the fireplace, so it's a good time to bring children. We will have hot wassail brewing on the kitchen stove. Bring a plate of your favorite Christmas cookies to share and be prepared to take home a sample of the cookies on the table.

The theme of this year's decorations, put together by Cathy Hamme, Jean Holman, Dorothy Sturges and Sharon Nesbit is, "A Cinnamon and Apple Christmas." The homemade ornaments hanging on the tree will be made of dried apples and the scented ornaments are made of cinnamon and applesauce. The greens that fill the house come from Sam Cox, Alex Jones and Malcom Boslar.

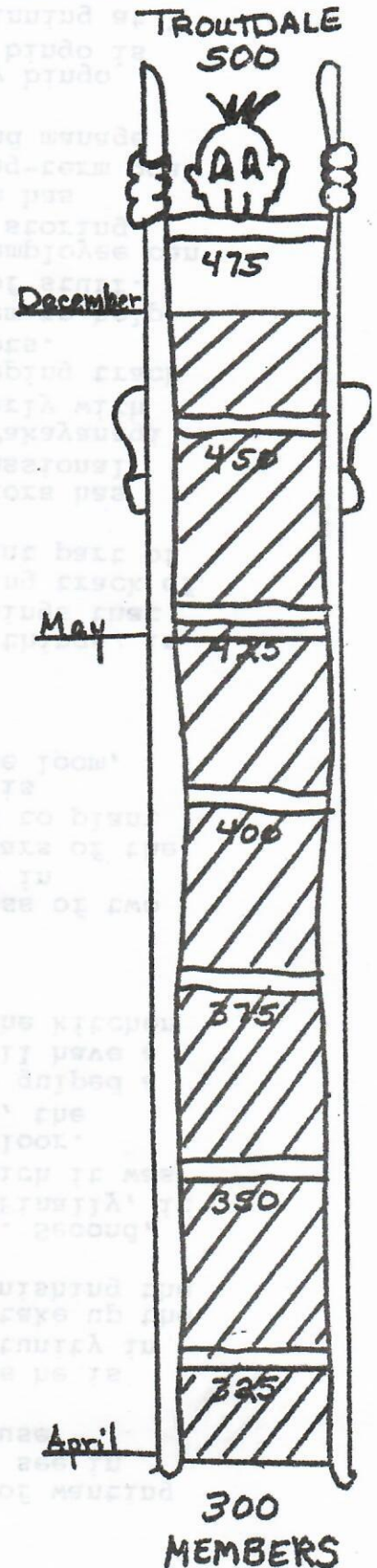
And our special display in the rear parlor will be the boyhood toys of Billy Baker who grew up to be our member Bill Baker and a man who treasures wonderful old stuff.

If you can't come on Saturday, please do drop by on Sunday, Dec. 20 when the house will be open from 1 to 4 p.m. or during the same hours on Saturday, Dec. 26, or Sunday, Dec. 27. (P.S. We are still looking for hosts for the house on Dec. 20 if you can spare three hours.)

MEMBERSHIP AT 464 MEMBERS...

We are just three dozen members away from our goal of getting 500 members by our 20th anniversary in February. So, how about giving a membership to the Society to someone for Christmas? Since only two months remain in this membership year, we will offer a special rate of \$4, (\$1 of dues to pay for the remainder of this year and \$3 to go toward dues for 1988.) Send your check to Lois Schulte, Membership Secretary, 17655 S.E. Bluff Rd. #1, Sandy, Ore., 97055, and she will notify the new member by mail. This offer is good for new members only.

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WE HAVE BEEN ABSOLUTELY FLOORED...

Having the Harlow House to care for sure cures you of wanting an old house of your own. The new kitchen floor you'll see in this house at Christmas is a perfect example of old-house headache.

Our Chief Harlow House Putterer Dick Jones (who says he is working too hard to be a mere putterer) took the opportunity in October while caretaker Kim Brewer was on vacation to take up the old inlaid linoleum in the kitchen with the goal of finishing the original wood floor and painting it.

First, he was met by buckets of old, petrified glue. Second, he discovered dry rot. Third, he found insect damage. Finally, it was necessary to call an emergency board meeting at which it was decided that the only choice was to put in a new fir floor.

Thanks to Dick, who volunteered to do all the labor, the expense was limited to \$400 for the materials. We have gulped a little and paid the bill, but if you want to help, we'll have a special collection basket smack-dab in the middle of the kitchen floor on Dec. 19. Just put your money down.

IN MEMORY...

The season will be a little less bright with the loss of two of our members, Mary Kaiser and Ellen Beldin, who died in November. Ellen first came to our aid in the early years of the Harlow House when she helped us round up white violets to plant under the dogwood tree in the yard. And Mary's memory is preserved in our collections with a wonderful, handmade loom, which she gave us several years ago.

SPEAKING OF OUR COLLECTIONS...

A historical society is largely an accumulation of things, in our case an old house and a rail depot, and all the things that go into it to make history seem real and alive. Keeping track of the items that have been entrusted to us is an important part of our job.

As we near our 20th anniversary, the board of directors has decided to take a major step in the direction of professional care of our collection. The Society has hired Marsha Takayanagi of Portland, a collections management consultant formerly with the Washington County Museum, to devise a plan for keeping track of our collection of artifacts, pictures and manuscripts.

To make a long story short, she will set up a system to help us take care of our "stuff" and we have a great deal of stuff. She will prepare a manual that a future volunteer or employee can follow in cataloging the collection, receiving items, storing them, and finding them with they are needed. Once she has completed her work, it will be the first step in a long-term goal of hiring someone to keep our museum open every day and manage our collection.

The money to pay Marsha's fee comes from our weekly bingo earnings. Except for Christmas Eve and New Years Eve, bingo is played every Thursday night in the Troutdale park beginning at 7 p.m.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP...

To prepare for our 20th anniversary, Cathy Hamme is putting together a scrapbook recording the two decades of this society. If you have mementos of past ice cream socials or other events

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WAYS YOU CAN HELP (CONT.)...that should be included, please date them (or come as close as you can) and bring them to our Christmas meeting.

Others items we need are Sandy's Camera Shop photo bags. Each \$7 worth of photo processing is good for a free 5x7 print and we redeem those bags to have our historical photos copied.

NEW THINGS FOR OUR COLLECTION...

Received last month from Dick Jones is a blue enamel spittoon of the type that probably saw much service in our rail depot. And from Florence Baker came an old Royal Baking Powder can.

Recently Bob and Louise Dix gave us a collection of items that include old hymn books used by Nancy Thomas who was so instrumental in the work of Cherry Park Presbyterian Church. Sam Cox has donated a book on railroading for our library.

AND SOME GOOD OLD STUFF...

Valerie Lantz, the horsewoman who cares for the saddles in our collection, brought one of the old saddles to our November meeting to explain what she has learned about it. The saddle, donated by Helen Althaus, turns out to be a real museum piece.

Val took the saddle to an expert in Oregon City who said it is a true plantation saddle made between 1890 and 1920, though its style dates to the earlier time. He said the saddle tree was made by Ben Schroeder in Madison, Indiana, and is identifiable because it is painted barn red, a signature of his work.

Helen Althaus says the saddle belonged to her mother, Lenore Williams Althaus, and was purchased for her when she was a small girl. Lenore rode astride, even though it was not the style of the day, because her parents deemed that a safer way to ride.

When our barn is built, the saddle will have a place there.

AND ABOUT OUR BARN-RAISING...

The board of directors has decided to begin, step-by-step, the process of building our barn with the hope that there is at least enough money in the fund at present to put up the shell.

With that goal in mind, decisions will be made on its exact location, which will be on the lawn south of the Harlow House.

As soon as a location is set, we will seek planning commission approval and prepare for an actual ground-breaking.

LUCIA LORAIN IS IN PRINT...

This historical society was among the first to hear Helen Althaus read the letter that her great-grandmother wrote home about her trip over the Oregon Trail. That letter has been incorporated in a new book called "A Letter Home." It is published with a collection of gorgeous historical photos and is available for \$24.95 from the Oregon Historical Society.

DATES TO NOTE...

On Sunday afternoon, Jan. 17 at 2 p.m. in Troutdale City Hall we will meet to honor Troutdale businesses who operate in historic sites and to recognize Troutdale grocer Roy Meger with a special historical marker for the Troutdale General Store.

On Sunday afternoon, Feb. 21, in the Great Hall at Troutdale City Park we celebrate our 20th anniversary and on Sunday, March 20, historian Dick Pintarich, a teacher at Mount Hood Community College, will talk about the history of the Columbia River Gorge.

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BARBARA WELSH, new member IVA ZIMMERMAN, and EDNA ALEXANDER baked the cookies for our November meeting. For those who asked, Barbara's recipe for pumpkin bars follows...Incidentally, lovers of good old stuff will want to stop into the new shop that NICK and BARBARA WELSH have opened in Gresham next to McBain's Drug Store on Main Avenue. It is an antique emporium that features the collections of several dealers...TED SCHULTE, treasurer, and LOIS SCHULTE, membership secretary, are stepping down from their jobs in February. Ted has been treasurer for 14 years and says it's time someone else took the job. The board of directors and the nominating committee are looking for candidates for the post...JOYCE STOECKEL, who presently prepares our newsletter for mailing, has agreed to take on the task of membership secretary...Watch for Harlow House caretaker KIM BREWER to be featured in the Gresham Outlook as she prepares for our Christmas party Dec. 19. In addition to caring for the Harlow House on a daily basis, Kim is painting the kitchen...ALEX JONES is working on the problem of getting the very faded "TROUTDALE" sign down from the depot and seeing that it is repainted...CLOVER NASMYTH could use two others to help her prepare cookies for our Jan. 17 meeting. Her telephone number is 774-7525...And, because a historical society travels on its stomach--Barbara Welsh's pumpkin bars: 1 one-pound can pumpkin, 2 cups sugar, 1 cup oil, 4 eggs, 2 cups flour, 2 teaspoons baking powder, 1 teaspoon soda, 2 teaspoons cinnamon, 1/2 teaspoon salt. Mix and bake in a 10x15 in. jelly roll pan for 25 minutes at 350 degrees. Frost with: 3 oz. cream cheese, 6 tablespoons butter, 1 teaspoon vanilla and 3 cups powdered sugar.

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 FOR CHRISTMAS.