

BYGONE TIMES

A Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October, 1998

Sharon Nesbit, Editor, 665-0423

First meeting of fall: reunion & remembering

Our first meeting of the fall -- at 2 p.m., **Sunday, Oct. 18 in the museum barn at Troutdale** -- is a gathering of friends, students and teachers of Troutdale school for a special tour of our exhibit, SMELT RUN!

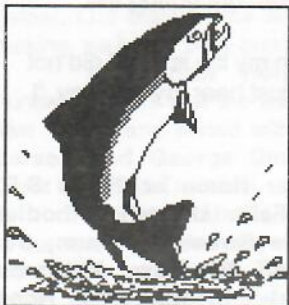
In light of the death of our longtime president Sam Cox and his role in developing our historical society and building our barn museum, we will include in this meeting a time for a "Remembrance of Sam."

There is no part of Troutdale, including the school, that Sam did not touch in some way. Sunday, Oct. 18, at 2 p.m., will be a good time to remember the many ways we and our town and our organization were altered by that touch.

New berm protects barn

During the first weeks of September, a public works project by the City of Troutdale removed the sand bank that was the only protection for the barn from floodwaters coming from the Strawberry Meadows subdivision. Workers replaced it with a compacted berm of clay, seeded with grass, which is intended to protect our buildings and site from winter floods.

This project was completed because a first attempt to deal with the flood water was vetoed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.



The good news, says Val Lantz, is that the berm, if it serves well, gives us the primary platform for building on top the Jack Burns Rest Stop announced several years ago. We planned the bench and resting place in honor of the founder of Burns Truck Stops. Jack Burns and his company came to the rescue of our barn construction project on a number of occasions.

The site of the flooding activity is also the site of the trout ponds first established by Capt. John Harlow. One of the benefits of the project this summer, was an archaeological survey of the site.

Like vintage cars? Come on Oct. 17

As part of a Troutdale Area Chamber of Commerce celebration marking the historic highway as an All-American Road, we will take photos of historic cars traveling the highway on Saturday, Oct. 17 in the morning at the Harlow House.

Sam Cox, King of Troutdale



Several years ago we hosted a show of historic clothing. Sam, schlepping around in his baggy gardening pants and one of those shirts he said was too good to throw away, agreed to model.

Dressed in vintage clothing, assuming a haughty demeanor, Sam could have been an English earl. Just another side of a many-faceted man, Sam was a wonderful gardener, a teller of naughty jokes, a loving father, a dreamer, a builder and an unabashed fan of Troutdale, a community he adopted as a young man.

A founder of this historical society, president from 1976 to 1993, mayor of Troutdale for 10 years, he died September 15 of a brain injury as the result of a fall. Death would have to blindsided him, because he always said he planned to live forever. Mayor Paul Thalhofer described Sam as "king of Troutdale."

He is survived by his wife, Nancy; daughters, Lisa Shaer of Gresham and Tori L. Muck of Troutdale; son Jarin Cox of Troutdale; and the apple of his eye, grandson Brandon Muck. Another son, John, preceded him in death.

If heaven has a garden, Sam is weeding there with his old friend, Alex Jones.



October Calendar Meetings

**Sunday,
Oct. 18,
2 p.m.,
Barn**

Reception and
tour of exhibit

SMELT RUN! for our annual Troutdale School reunion and a Remembrance of Sam, honoring the late Sam Cox.

Sunday, Nov. 15, 2 p.m., Troutdale City Hall
A visit with Edna Ellis, an oral history interview.

Saturday, Dec., 5, noon to 4 p.m., Harlow House
Christmas at the Harlow House with opening cookie party and a visit from Santa Claus.

Meetings for the good of the order

Wednesday, Nov. 4, 7 p.m., Barn

Saturday, Dec. 2, 7 p.m. Barn

Board of Directors meetings

Monday, Nov. 2, noon (call for location)

Lunch Bunch, Harlow House committee

Director's Club meets at Sweetbriar farm

President David Ripma and the board of directors hosted members of the Director's Club for a sunny Labor Day picnic at Sweetbriar Farm.

The only perk of the Director's Club -- other than the opportunity to pay an increased membership rate for the support of our director, is a summer event hosted by the president.

This year Director's Club members enjoyed a barbecue and the fixings. They also greeted Jim and Nina Kight who joined just so they could attend.

Many thanks to board members who made dishes for the event and to Director Deb Cook who coordinated it, and to David Ripma and Mario Ayala for hosting.



Continuing...

A Perfect Childhood by Jack Elmer

(Our apologies for the delay in completin this story sent by Jack Elmer, who grew up on his parent's farm on Stark Street. The last segment described life up to the 1940s. Jack would become a master baker and owner of JaCiva's Bakery in Portland.)

"My mother loved to entertain, cook and bake. Yes, I can honestly say I learned my love for baking from my mother and my grandmother. If I ever wondered where my mother was, I could always find her in the kitchen. She loved to make things and loved to invent things. It was a pleasure just to watch her. It was a good experience to see my mother and father have so much fun.

In 1953, my brother was a senior at Benson High School. About May of that year, a forest fire started on the side hill of the Sandy River east of us. My mother called Benson to see if my brother could home home to fight the fire. He did, but about 20 of his classmates came with him to help us. Our huge front lawn was turned into a parking lot and the top of our driveway was turned into a place for all the firefighters to get something to eat. Guess who cooked all the food for the fire fighters?

Our home today would be called a show place. But in those days, it was just a wonderful home. It must have been built by very creative craftsmen. The roof to me was the most awesome of all. In some places the shingling was 5 and 6 layers deep. There was no strict pattern.

There was a very special round nook (in a turret) separate from the kitchen and a huge living room with a 16-foot a-frame type ceiling. All of the beams, even all the doors and woodwork, are solid mahogany. In the living room was a beautiful leaded glass window at the north end that gave us a view of Washington and the Columbia River Gorge. That was unfortunately blown out during the Columbus Day Storm.

One of the regrets I have in my life is that I did not keep this home in our family. I can just hear my wife say, 'I told you so.'

Editor's note: The Elmer Home at 27324 S.E. Stark Street is now part of Faith United Methodist Church. Originally a part of the Sweetbriar Farm, the land was given by Emmet Bigelow Williams (grandfather of Helen Althaus) to his wife, Rose Stephens Wallace. The site had a small cabin on it and at the time, was used for a country retreat. After Rose Wallace's death in the 1920s, her son, Harry, built the house that now stands there. He moved to California during the Depression, selling the home to Bill and Roslie Elmer. The house and 15 acres was purchased by the Elmer's for \$11,500.

We reap a harvest of great volunteers

About 800 folks pitched in a "Buck for the Barn" at the gates of Glenn Otto Community Park for our Sept. 26 and 27 Harvest Faire.

Lacking new signs, some were confused, believing the barn is done. It is open, of course, but the barn bucks are applied to exhibits inside and completion of the upstairs.

Our sites never looked better, thanks to decorating touches of **Frieda Ryland**, **Marge Schmunk**, **Jean Hybskmann**, **Adrienne Clausen** and a bunch of good helpers. Zinnias and asters from **Bob Strebin**, dried hydrangeas, ornamental cabbage and kale from **Kaz & Helen Tamura** -- all came together in our prettiest festival.

Special thanks to **Walsh & Sons Trucking** and **City of Troutdale**. The former provided pumpkins for kids to paint. The city loaned paint supplies. **Reynolds Metals** helped with live music costs and other expenses were met by the donation of a helicopter ride by **JL Aviation**.

Rich and Dorothy Kerlake and their family members cooked and served a delicious Swedish meatball dinner, selling more than 200 meals. And thanks to **Tad's Chicken n' Dumplins** for again providing their famous green beans. **Sadie Riley** was off visiting relatives this year, but made her famous chili ahead and froze it.

Jim and Retha Bennett of Sandy River Orchards brought the cider press. **James Cook** was their faithful helper. Our blacksmiths were back, too, making, we hear, "belly button keys."

At Harlow House, several hundred visitors saw the wildlife photos of **Jim Cruce** and visited with artists **Mark Larsen** and **George Dinan** of Pacific Crest Gallery in Troutdale.

Mona Mitchoff is chairwoman of our steering committee, which produces ice cream social, the Troutdale picnic booth and Harvest Faire. Her workers, including substantial help from her own family, are **Dorothy Sturges**, **Jean Holman**, **Florence Baker**, **Cindy Hammond**, **Freida Ryland**, **Bob Strebin**, **Marge Schmunk**, **Adrienne Clausen**, and Director **Deb Cook**. They bring into the event a host of volunteers, pie bakers, kitchen help, museum hosts, tent setter-uppers and so on. We are grateful to all.

In memory of Our Sam



Donations honoring

Sam K. Cox

Leona Balch
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Lena Thorud)
Dave Ripma
Estella Evans
Arlie Harris
Frank & Jeannie Driver
Stuart & Linda Driver
Mary Catherine Driver
Laurie Ledbetter & family

Namedroppers....

Feminine determination -- translated: Where Am I Going to Put This Stuff?-- paid off again last month when **Mary Bryson** and **Deb Cook** approached our new storage room in the barn, puzzled out hundreds of pieces of shelving and put together the shelving system to create our first -- Dah-Dah! -- official archival storage unit. Thanks to **Bob Strebin** and **Mike Alderson** who did all the work preparing the shelving and building the structure, Mary, our curator, now has a stash.

Hosts Needed

Our museums have resumed winter hours -- Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m. -- and we are in need a hosts who would enjoy greeting visitors. Please call **Deb Cook**, 661-2164, if you can give some time.

Speaking of hosts, our thanks to those who greeted our guests through the summer.

At Harlow House: **Jean Hybskmann**, **Deb Cook**, **Sharon Nesbit**, **Susan Kauth**, **Mario Ayala**, **Olive Johnston**, **Ted & Lois Schulte**, **Donna Hawkins**, **Adrienne Clausen**, **Pauline & Mike Morrow**, **Georgene Penketh**, **Florence Baker**, **Crystal Bayley**, **Jan Vandiver**, **Lynda Harvey**, **Paula Goldie**, **Sheryl Maydew**, **Penny Balch**. (And built-in apologies to those we overlooked.)

At the depot: **Marge & Ed Schmunk**, **Jim Cook**, **Carolyn Taylor**, **Sadie Riley**, **Paula Goldie** and **Debbie Schoepper**.

Got a Video Cam?

We are looking for an amateur videographer who would like to video tape our oral history interviews at our meetings. The next one coming up Nov. 15 with **Edna Ellis** should be fascinating. It is always most valuable to have these interviews on both video and audio tape.

We also need a newspaper clipper. You got scissors? We got a job.

Gifts

to the Director's Fund

In memory of
Ellen Brothers
Bill & Sharon Nesbit
Ken Otto
Mike & Elaine Dubesa

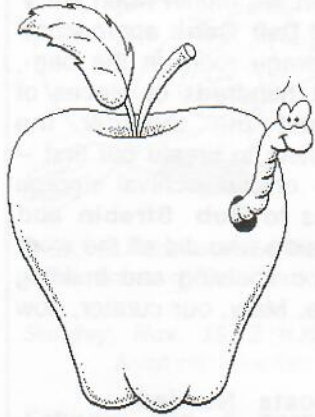
In memory of
Clara Catherine Howk
Bob & Shirley Loeffel

Welcome to New Members
Robert Allegre and **Birdell Wendt**, gifts of **Bob Strebin**, and **Vera Gaughan**, gift of Troutdale Vision Clinic.

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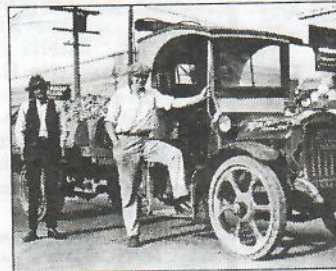
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**Troutdale School Reunion
 and
 Remembrance of Sam**
Sunday, Oct. 18, 2 p.m.
Barn Museum

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