

BYGONE TIMES

A Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JANUARY, 1994

EDITOR SHARON NESBIT, 665-0423

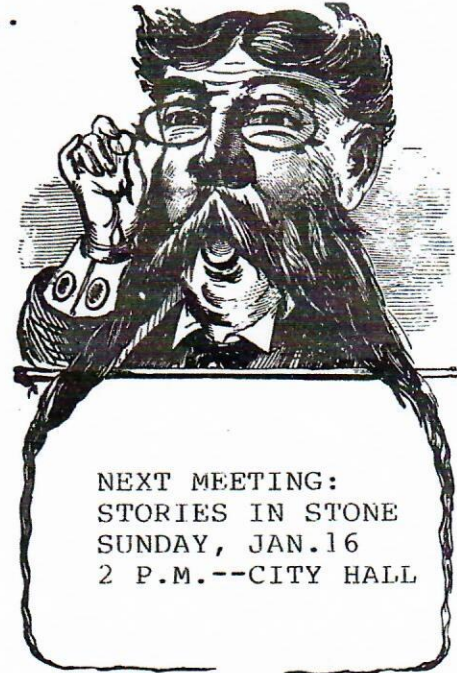
STORIES IN STONE, COLUMBIA GORGE PETROGLYPHS...

A slide presentation on the Indian Rock Art of the Columbia River Plateau will be presented at our next Troutdale Historical Society meeting by Dr. James D. Keyser, regional archaeologist for the U.S. Forest Service in Portland.

The meeting will be at 2 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 16, in Troutdale City Hall. Dr. Keyser is brought to us at the invitation of Alice Wand, a member of our program committee. He is the author of a book on the same subject. His studies have taken him throughout North America and to Europe and China.

Please join us for this presentation on the petroglyphs of the Columbia River Gorge and basin and their Native American creators. If you have friends who would enjoy knowing more about Indian rock art, please invite them to attend. Our meetings, of course, are always open to the public.

As is always the case in the Columbia River Gorge in winter, if we have bad weather and driving is dangerous, the meeting is cancelled. If there is a question, call Ellen Brothers at 695-2382.



NEXT MEETING:
STORIES IN STONE
SUNDAY, JAN.16
2 P.M.--CITY HALL

ALSO AN ITEM OR TWO OF BUSINESS...

Nominations will be open at our January meeting for our election of officers on Feb. 20. If you would like to serve as an officer or a member of the board, or wish to nominate someone to do so, this is the time to speak up. At this writing, we will have one vacancy on our board of directors. Cathy Hamme is leaving office to pursue her other duties as curator of the society collections.

The other item of business at our January meeting is a general membership vote on an amendment to our constitution. Stated simply the new amendment would eliminate the requirement to have a full business meeting at each of our winter monthly meetings. Instead, business meetings would be limited to one or two a year as determined by the board of directors or the membership, for example when an election or a vote is necessary. At other times the society would be aware of our business activities by newsletter or reports at monthly gatherings.

YEAR END GIFTS BRIGHTEN OUR DAYS...

Our work is supported by friends who make donations as a regular habit. Recently Jack Burns of Burns Bros. truck stops gave us a check that will pay for a big chunk of our heating and cooling system in the barn. From McMenamins Edgefield came our share of profits from Troutdale Historical Society Day in October. That check will keep the Harlow House for a month. And from Roy Meger and Elsie Sinnitt and their customers at the Troutdale General Store, another gift, one of several this year, that is enough to pay the cost of mailing this newsletter.

CHRISTMAS AT THE HARLOW HOUSE...

The singing was only a little off-key this year as volunteers gathered to trim the Harlow House for Christmas. At right are pictured Dorothy Sturges, Florence Baker, Jean Holman, Mona Mitchoff and Sharon Nesbit.

Other workers who pitched into make a success of that day and our Dec. 11 reception: Lynn Simonson, Dick Jones, Sam Cox, Cathy Hamme, Pearl Ramseth (who played the organ), Santa Claus helpers Ted Schulte and Bill Jackson, and the Troutdale Lions and Lioness, who provide candy. Mike and Cathy Hamme donated the tree. Malcolm Boslar sent his usual splendid box of juniper from Bend. And Jack Malcom and Mary Allen contributed a floral arrangement.



Curt and Geri VonAhn donated a considerable chunk of the cost of the ornaments. Thanks to all who shared cookies.

OUR MOST RECENT TREASURER'S REPORT....Treasurer Lynda Harvey

ENDOWMENT FUND.....	\$ 13,405.99
OPERATING ACCOUNT.....	15,368.10
DEDICATED BARN FUNDS.....	616.53
BARN BUILDING FUND.....	12,939.31
DIRECTOR'S FUND.....	3,750.03
GRAND TOTAL.....	46,079.96

DONATIONS...

CRYSTAL BAYLEY sent gifts in memory Dena Smith, Harriet Payne and Ethel Peterson. GEORGE E. & MILDRED SWANSON made a gift to the barn in memory of George S. and Cecile Swanson.

NEW MEMBERS...

Welcome to DIONE PUGH, who plans to be a Harlow House volunteer next summer; DONNA CARSON GONZALES and LUCAS ANTON. Anton, whose telephone number is 492-4737, is interested in characters who once lived at Edgefield Manor. He wants to write a paper on some of the more colorful people who resided there. If you can help, give him a call.

IN MEMORY...

Edith Gage died of cancer in December. She will be remembered as Nancy Cox's frequent helper in the kitchen at past ice cream socials. She is survived by her husband, Clyde.

TAKE A HIKE...

Our member and Columbia Gorge historian Bus Gibson will be leading historical hikes in the gorge this winter. On Saturday, Jan. 29, a 2.5 mile trip to the upper and lower Cascades and early historic sites. On Saturday, Feb. 5, a 6.5 mile walk along the old highway to the Mosier Twin Tunnels. On Feb. 26, an 8 mile hike in Eagle Creek Gorge. Cost \$8 per trip. Call 252-4475 for information and reservations.

HELP WANTED-HELP WANTED-HELP WANTED-HELP WANTED-HELP WANTED

We are in need of a volunteer with organizational skills to chair the Harlow House committee. That job includes oversight of activities in the house, coordinating cleaning and restoration/repair activities and planning for the future. This is a job that requires coordination skills. We have people to do most of the Harlow House jobs, folks to clean, folks to catalog, folks to volunteer as hosts, but what we need is someone who loves old houses to lead this pack of volunteers. What the Harlow House needs is a wife! If you can do that job, please call Ellen Brothers, 661-2164 or 695-2382.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK--BY ELLEN BROTHERS



Happy New Year! During 1994 we look forward to much progress on the barn, thanks to successful fund-raising events put on by our volunteers, some large donations and the efforts of our Bandaïd Brigade led by Dick Jones. This is the year to install the heating and cooling system and put up the dry wall.

We are also working on plans to enhance the Depot Museum displays. Before we open for the summer, we hope to have that accomplished. If you are interested in helping with this project or volunteering in any capacity, call me at the museum, 661-2164.

Election of officers and board members will occur at our February meeting. We hope you will attend. membership renewal begins in February also. We will be printing a new membership roster in April, so get your renewals in early to be included in the new roster. How will you know that your dues are due? If your next newsletter contains a membership envelope, then it is time to renew.

While the Harlow House museum is open only on Saturdays and Sundays in the winter, I also maintain office hours from 1 to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays. If you have questions or need to catch up with me, that is a good time to come to the house.

PUT THESE DATES ON THAT NEW CALENDAR...

JANUARY MEETING--James Keyser, Columbia Gorge petroglyphs, 2 p.m., Sunday January 16, Troutdale City Hall.

FEBRUARY MEETING--Mountain Man Joe Meek's descendant, John Meek. Election of officers. Sunday, Feb. 20, 2 p.m. in Troutdale City Hall.

MARCH MEETING--Oral History interview with Ted Binn on Troutdale Vegetable Growers, Sunday, March. 20, 2 p.m. in Troutdale City Hall.

APRIL MEETING--Field trip to Bridal Veil for a meeting at the Franciscian Sisters with Anita Birt, author of "The House at Bridal Veil," 2 p.m., Sunday, April 17, at the Bridal Veil house.

MAY BRUNCH--A Sunday, May 1 brunch, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Sam Cox Building, Troutdale City Park.

MAY MEETING--A talk from Lewis McArthur of Oregon Geographic Names fame on East Multnomah County names, 2 p.m., Sunday, May 15, Sam Cox Building, Troutdale City Park.

WE'RE PLUMB HAPPY...

Just before winter cooled the barn to deep freeze temperatures and forced even Dick Jones out of the building, we managed to get all our plumbing completed in the structure. This job was donated by Mike Jacobs, a member of the Troutdale Lions.

Mike, who did some earlier plumbing work on the building, completed all the final work for the restrooms and the limited plumbing in the work shop.

All pipes will be subject to a final test when we have heat and water is actually turned on, but as of now, plumbing is complete. Our thanks to Mike for doing the work for us.

CONTINUING OUR HISTORY OF TROUTDALE...

Beginning in the early 1900s farmers coming from the Midwest discovered the fertile, sandy soil in the Columbia River bottomland and began growing celery and other vegetables. In the 1920s, Troutdale claimed the title of "Celery Capital of the World." For many years the land yielded cabbage and cauliflower as well as daffodil and gladiola bulbs. Capt. Harlow's rail depot was put to use as he intended and produce was shipped all over the nation.

The original rail depot burned in 1907 and was replaced by the building that is now used as the rail museum and offices for the Troutdale Area Chamber of Commerce and the city park department. It was moved to the present site in 1979.

The Troutdale City Hall was completed in 1923. The idea was conceived shortly after incorporation in 1907 but a dispute arose over putting a dance floor in the new building. Mayor Aaron Fox, who already owned a dance floor in his building and did not appreciate the competition from a publicly-owned building, sued his own council over the issue. Court battles used up all the construction money and only a lower foundation was poured.

Some years later, young adults held a successful fund drive to complete the hall by sponsoring benefit dances. The new hall was built, with a dance floor (now covered by city offices) and dances were a chief staple of Troutdale social life for years.

World War II and construction of an aluminum plant near the Columbia River brought a boom to the city in the mid-1940s. Eventually, fluoride emissions from the plant ended the gladiola industry and damaged other crops. Construction of a water-level highway, now Interstate 84, along the Columbia River in the early 1950s pulled traffic away from Troutdale.

TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
104 S.E. KIBLING ST.
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