First Recipient of THS Preservationist Award, Ted Schulte, is Remembered

Dave Ripma, President of THS, delivered this eulogy at Ted Schulte’s service on December 11, 2000. Ted passed away on December 7. Donations can be made in memory of Ted to THS.

Perhaps the first thing Ted Schulte ever did for the Troutdale Historical Society more than 30 years ago was to bring his pony-ride ring to the ice cream social. Somehow or other, he set it up on the street in front of Troutdale City Hall—as steep as it is—and the kids had a fine time. Lois mentioned the other day, that an irate woman accosted him, telling him it was inhumane to make those ponies carry those children around that ring. Ted, in that soft voice we all know so well, patiently explained that the kids weighed nothing to the ponies, and furthermore the ponies were inclined to be fat and needed the exercise. She likely never believed him, but it was like him to answer in that way. Easy. Logically. Without anger.

We have been lucky in our historical society to find a group of men, honored by The Depression, toughened by hard work, who could do just about anything. Ted Schulte was one of those. We called on him in the 1970s when we added a room on to our first museum in what was then Troutdale City Park. He worked with green kids from the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act who could barely handle a hammer. On the day he used a “come along”—the best we can explain it is an ingenious pulley device—to raise the main beam of the addition, he got their attention. They left thinking he was a genius, and he was.

When we moved from that building to the Harlow (Continued on Page 3)

Ruby Glass Display at the Harlow House

Doneva Shepard, THS’s volunteer photo librarian, agreed to loan us eighty pieces of her mother’s, Geneva Shepard, ruby glass collection. The Tuesday Ladies set out the glass in three display cases just in time for the holidays. Collected over three generations, about a third of the Shepard collection is on display including a collection of ruby shot glasses, butter dishes and pitchers. Thank you, Doneva, for the allowing us to loan such a wonderful collection! Later this year we will be displaying a collection of china handpainted by her mother, a very talented artist. The collection can be seen at the Harlow House, Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4.

Calendar of Events

Sunday, January 21
2 p.m. at City Hall
Crown Point Country Society
Slideshow of Bridal Veil and Local Trees of Interest

Wednesday, February 7
7 p.m. at The Barn
Board Meeting

Sunday, February 18
2 p.m. at City Hall
Sally Donovan
Columbia River Gorge

IN INCLEMENT WEATHER, EVENTS ARE AUTOMATICALLY
From Laura at the
Harlow House
A new year brings time for
resolutions and it is true here
at the Harlow House as well. Here
are a couple of things I'll be
working on this year.

With the Lewis & Clark
Bicentennial commemoration right
around the corner (wow, is 2003 is
right around the corner?), THS is
planning a new exhibit, based on
flora and fauna of the Lewis & Clark
Expedition. Our goal is to
incorporate the plants and animals
recorded in the journals into a
natural history exhibit featuring the
work of local artists. Our mission for
this exhibit is to educate our
community about the role the
Sandy River Basin played in the
expedition, and also to educate
those who will follow the Lewis &
Clark Trail about Troutdale. With a
new exhibit comes a need for
funds. This coming year we begin
raising the estimated $40,000
needed for this exhibit. We have a
big job ahead of us!

A second area I will focus on is
increasing our volunteer base. As
you know, the Harlow House and
Barn are dependent on our
volunteers to keep the property
open to visitors, especially in the
summer months. Visitors are very
important to us, not only for
income, but also for visibility in the
community. Don't be surprised if
you get a call from me inquiring
about your interest in volunteering!

As the year progresses, I'll give
you frequent updates. As always,
feel free to call me at the Harlow
House if you have any questions.
Here's to the new year!

Do you have photos or memories
of seals in the Sandy? We would like
to talk to you! Please call Laura at
(503) 661-2164.

Robin's Way Dedicated
The historic trail in the Sandy River canyon, that links the Strawberry
Meadows subdivision to Harlow House Park, was dedicated over
Thanksgiving weekend. Bob and Louise Dix gathered with family and friends
at the top of the trail to unveil a historic marker and memorial boulders
honoring their two children, Robin and Julie. Sharon Nesbit and Mayor Paul
Thailofer, offered thanks to the Dix Family for their conservation efforts of
the trail which once was part of their farm. Additions include a picnic table
with benches at the top of the trail and a park bench at the bottom. The Dix
grandchildren planted trees at the top of the trail, a fitting end to the event.

THS Board Vacancy
THS is looking for candidates for the
Board of Directors. If you are
interested, or know someone we
could arm twist, please call Laura
Newton at (503) 661-2164. The
Board meets the first Wednesdays
of every month at 7 p.m. in the
Barn. As always, meetings are
open to all members.

GIFTS TO THS
In memory of Barbara Jean Ripma
Doris Woolley
In memory of Ted Schulte
Bob and Louise Dix

Ed Ashley
Sharon Petri & Thomas Arbuckle
Lois Moller
Bill Nesbit

Albertson's Community Partners Cards
Do you shop at Albertson's? The historical society receives two percent of
all shopping trips by customers who present an Albertson's Community
Partners card with our name on it. It is a little card that fits in your wallet and
the checker scans it in—good at any Albertson's in the U.S. for those of you
who travel! We receive about $200 a quarter from Albertson's which goes to
our operating fund.

CURATOR'S CORNER
As a result of the military display in honor of Veteran's Day, the Harlow House
Museum received several new additions to the military collection. We added a
gasmask, Civil Defense helmet and truncheon from WWI, a range finder,
Japanese flare gun and some Japanese souvenirs—a kimono, wooden
sandals, a Japanese officer's attaché case and hat, an opium pipe and some
small purses, and a photo copy of a Japanese semaphore sheet—from WWII,
our first Merchant Marine additions to the collection and the first Vietnam War
era artifact, a seabeam uniform complete with hardhat. A hearty thanks to the
Tuesday Ladies: Jean Holman, Barbara Welsh, Mona Mitchoff and Jean
Hybskmann for creating the display, and of course to the donors, Eldon
Barry, Anne Rogers, Jim Cook, Walter Nasmyth, Bill Dratwa, Jean
Holman, Ernie Cereshino and Harold Whitney.

If you missed the Christmas Open House at the Harlow House, be sure to
stop by to see the beautiful ruby glass collection we have showcased in the
parlor and dining room. The pieces we have on display are part of a large
collection owned by Donella Shepard, our photo librarian. She has graciously
agreed to loan us her beautiful ruby glass pitchers, candy dishes, glasses, and
souvenirs until after Valentine's Day.

On December 12, Bob Strebin and Ed Ashley finished the installation of the
new track lighting at the Harlow House. What a difference it makes. Our
display cases are now spotlighted and the ruby glass in them is dazzling.

Curator, Mary Bryson
Harlow House Happenings

A far too merry crew showed up to deck the halls and any other surface that would stand still at the Harlow House on Nov. 29. Bob Strebin took care of outside lights and things too tall to reach. Adrienne Clausen came with the traditional soup for lunch. Dovena Shepard loaned a fabulous collection of ruby glass. Others who played a part: Sharon Nesbit, Jean Holman, Dorothy Sturges, Mary Bryson, Frieda Ryland, Jean Hybskiann, Mona Mitchoff, Florence Baker. Our thanks to Bob and Ilona Skipper of Skipper-Jordan Nursery in Orient for our lovely Noble Fir Christmas tree. If you need plants or other stuff, give them a try and say thanks for us.

It takes a lot of dinking around to keep an old house together, and even more to keep a house and barn in working shape to meet the public. A late summer visit from the fire marshal gave Bob Strebin a large to-do list, but he has worked his way through it. We have special locks to aid the fire department in coming to our aid, we have new or inspected fire extinguishers and we have tidied up extension cords and other devices that were worrisome.

In addition, Bob and Ed Ashley have seen to it that our wiring in the basement is improved. New lights have been installed downstairs and boy, it is bright! They also installed new track lighting in the first floor of the Harlow House, in the dining room and in the front and back parlors. These improvements are due largely to Ed Ashley, who wants to make sure that our house is safe and done right.

The Two Cents Story. When he and Lois traveled, he entrusted the books to Sam Cox and Alex Jones, along with careful instructions. One year after an event when all was tallied up, Jones and Sam found themselves two cents short, so they each kicked in a penny. They turned it over to Ted when he got home, saying nothing. A week or so later, after he had a chance to look over the accounts, Ted nonchalantly said to the two of them, “I see where you two had to chip in two cents to make things right.”

Ted developed our bingo game, a fund-raiser that we ran for 10 years. We kidded him in the beginning that he was the only one who knew about bingo because he was Catholic and it was part of the liturgy. He was the one who figured out how to sign up new members by offering an unbelievable membership rate at our first home tour. We gained more than 100 new members that day—many would be longtime loyal volunteers, including another handy fellow named Dick Jones, who would later build our barn. Ted was the first recipient of our Preservationist Award. Jones was the second. And Bob Strebin recently became our third.

Ted was a night person, staying up all night thinking about things. And he was the kind of guy whom children trusted—enough to lead the 4-H pony club. Enough to sit on his red-velvet knee and tell him what they wanted for Christmas. He and Sam Cox took that Santa Act all over town. To the old folks at Edgefield, when it was a nursing home, sitting on the cold street in front of the barber shop in downtown Troutdale, and once up to the Job Corps where the big girls made naughty suggestions to Santa. Ted said he’d never go back and Sam never let him forget it.

He had an almost faultless memory and a gift for remembering a good story. His accounts of smelt fishing and living through the Vanport flood with flocks of chickens to tend are now part of our history.

And he was the ‘old man of the river;’ the one, along with Roy Meger, whom people talked to about smelt in the Sandy. The spring morning when the phone would ring and Ted’s grave voice would announce, “Say... the smell is in,” was the equivalent of yelling “Fire.” That soft announcement set off a frenzy and Ted and Lois would be there in the middle of it, living on the river bank, renting nets, cooking hot dogs and having just as much fun as anyone.

Sharon Nesbit says that he is one of the smartest men she has ever known. She and Sam, she admits, were creative thinkers. Ted, the critical thinker. A problem, to Ted, was just a matter of thinking through it. And a story we just heard about him illustrates that. When his daughter was 6 or 7, Ted took sole custody of her and became a single parent in a time when the phrase was unknown. Dads did not often raise their children alone, especially a daughter. When Diane needed a skating costume, a little Dutch girl outfit, Ted went out and bought himself a small sewing machine, studied up on sewing and made the outfit himself.

That would be no surprise to those of us who had the privilege of knowing and working with him. We are all way better off for that and the touch of his hands—missing some fingers, as I remember—will leave a mark on our community for years to come.
Thank You New Members!

Jill and Jeff Smith

Fourth Annual Tea and Tour is May 5
Mark your calendars for the Fourth Annual Tea & Tour. It will be held in Corbett at Raven’s Lodge, home of Glenny and Dave Moir.

Troutdale Historical Society

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Inside THS
Laura Newton, Director
Mary Bryson, Curator
Sharon Nesbit, Historian
Doreva Shepard, Photo Librarian
Adrienne Clausen, Volunteer Coordinator

Harlow House & Barn
726 E. Historic Columbia River Highway
Phone: (503) 661-2164
HOURS: 1 to 4 p.m., Saturday & Sunday

Rail Depot Museum
473 E. Historic Columbia River Highway
Phone: (503) 667-8268
HOURS: Closed for the Winter

Christmas Open House
Our thanks at our Christmas open house to our St. Nick helpers, Ed and Marge Schmunk, and Bob and Mona Mitchoff. This is the first year since Harlow House has been open to visitors at Christmas that Ted Schulte has not been Santa. He was greatly missed, but we appreciate Ed stepping in to fill the suit. Also thank you to Dorothy Sturges, Jean Holman, Sharon Nesbit, Mary Bryson, Kay Struckman, and the many bakers who brought good cookies to share. After the party, the cookies were arranged and wrapped on festive plates. On Monday we took them around Troutdale to the businesses and city agencies who do so much to help us during the year. They were much appreciated!

THANK YOU!
Thank you to December Harlow House Hosts: Adrienne Clausen, Mary Bryson, Carli Walker, Donna McCollister, Florence Baker, Sharon Nesbit, Dale and Betty Baldwin.

Thank you to Bill Nesbit and Karen Banfield, who responded to our wish list in December’s ByGone Times. Bill provided our office with a copy machine, and Karen volunteered to put together a photo exhibit!

If you would like more information on volunteering for THS, please call Adrienne Clausen at (503) 663-0995 or Laura Newton at (503) 661-2164. Volunteer and bring a friend!

Richard Cartisser passed away early this December after a lengthy illness. He and his wife Sandy were THS members and they often loaned us historic clothing for display in the Harlow House. Donations in memory of Richard can be made to the Crown Point Country Historical Society, P.O. Box 17, Bridal Veil, Oregon 97010.