

BYGONE TIMES

A Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL

January 2001

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, honed 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)



Ted and Lois Schulte at the Poor Farm, 1998

January Program to Feature Bridal Veil

Steve Lehl and Chuck Rollins from the Crown Point Country Historical Society will be presenting at our January program on Sunday the 21st. They will be bringing two slide presentations, one on Bridal Veil and one on local trees of interest. Steve and Chuck are wonderful sources of knowledge and fun! They are also busy raising money to begin a museum in the old Springdale School, which they are sure to tell us about. Don't miss this program! As always, it will be at City Hall at 2 p.m. (Did you sign up for cookies? Can't remember? Call Jan Vandiver at (503) 665-4854.)

Ruby Glass Display at the Harlow House

Doneva Shepard, THS's volunteer photo librarian, agreed to loan to 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 borrow 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

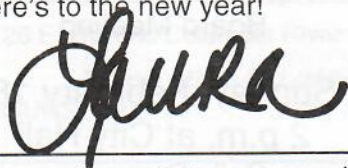
From Laura at the Harlow House

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 Thalhofer, 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 gas mask, 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 attache case and hat, an opium pipe and some small purses, and a photocopy of a Japanese semaphore sheet—from WWII, our first Merchant Marine additions to the collection and the first Vietnam War era artifact, a seabee uniform complete with hard-hat. 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 Cereghino 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 parlors and dining room. The pieces we have on display are part of a large collection owned by **Doneva 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.

With winter upon us and the Depot Museum closed, we have decided to do a complete inventory of the railroad collection. That will be the next undertaking of the *Tuesday Ladies*.

If any of you have a free couple of hours to volunteer on any Tuesday, please feel free to join us. You can be sure that going out to lunch is a big part of the Tuesday Lady schedule, and we welcome all comers. Please call Laura at (503) 661-2164 if you'd like to join us. **Mary Bryson, Curator**

(Continued from page 1)

House it was mostly Sam Cox, Alex Jones, Ted and Sharon Nesbit who did that job. On Monday, with all the small stuff in the house, Sharon went to work leaving the guys one final instruction—See those big wood and glass display cases? They need to be upstairs. Ted eyeballed that skinny second-story window in the street side of the Harlow House, rigged his famous come-along, took the window out and squeaked those big cases in through that tiny hole. It stopped traffic.

Ted took on the major restoration work of the Harlow House in 1978. He and others applied 72 tubes of caulk to seal up the siding. They insulated where they could and made do with next to no money. One New Years Day, even when Lois told him not to, they climbed up on that scary roof to fix a leak.

He was our treasurer for a decade—more like 15 years we think now. He became famous for his perfect books and we cherish

“A problem, to Ted, was just a matter of thinking through it.”

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

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. **Doneva Shepard** loaned a fabulous collection of ruby glass. Others who played a part: **Sharon Nesbit, Jean Holman, Dorothy Sturges, Mary Bryson, Frieda Ryland, Jean Hybskmann, 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.

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 smelt are 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.



Troutdale Historical Society
 104 S.E. Kibling Street
 Troutdale, OR 97060

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.

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 OR

Troutdale Historical Society

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 Fax: (503) 674-2995

E-mail Address

Troutdale_Historical_Society@juno.com

Inside THS

Laura Newton, Director
 Mary Bryson, Curator
 Sharon Nesbit, Historian
 Doneva 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) 663-0895 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.