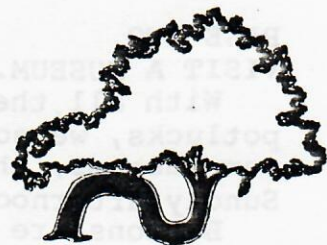


Bygone Times

Newsletter of The Troutdale Historical Society.



MAY, 1986

EDITOR: Sharon Nesbit, 665-0423

MAY WE HAVE THE HONOR...

Our last meeting of the season will be our May potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m., Monday, May 19, in the Troutdale City Park Building.

Please bring a potluck dish, a side dish, bread, salad or dessert. The Society will provide the entree and the beverage. You may bring your own place settings if you wish, however, we will have paper plates and plastic flatware available.

Come prepared to stand up and introduce yourself. In the past during these introductions we have asked you to elaborate a bit by telling us how or why you came to Troutdale. This time, tell us "in 25 words or less" who is, or was, your favorite Troutdale character.

The high point of the evening, will be naming and honoring our member of the year. This is no small honor because the member of the year gets to be the first in line for dinner.

ABOUT THE HOME TOUR...

Attached to your newsletter is a brochure for our Sunday, May 18, home tour. We know most of our members attended last year, so it is your job to take give this brochure to someone who would like to go. It is unlikely that we will be able to have these same homes in a tour again so this is the last chance.

Now that you've given your brochure away, you'll need to know that the tour is a drive-yourself trip to five houses from Troutdale to Bridal Veil. Tickets are \$7 (\$5 for members) and can be purchased at the Harlow House, 726 E. Columbia St., Troutdale, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the day of the tour. The price includes a tea which will be served at the Harlow House.

Remember now, you can't help us by putting the brochure on top of the television and forgetting it. Give it to someone and help us make some money for our museum projects.

WELCOME TO BYGONE TIMES...

The newsletter has a new look this month. We decided we needed a little facelift so several people helped us develop a new masthead. The name "Bygone Times" was suggested by Dave Pinson at The Gresham Outlook. Carolyn Strong, also of The Outlook, helped put it together.

The newsletter is about to retire for the summer. We will have one more edition in late May to prepare you for our June 8 ice cream social and then we will go into hibernation until fall.

ABOUT THE ICE CREAM SOCIAL...

We will have a sign-up sheet at our May 19 meeting to gather volunteers to help serve at the social. We need scoopers of ice cream, slicers of bananas, servers of sauces, hostesses of charm, sellers of tickets, cleaners of strawberries and bakers of cakes. If you can do any of those things, call Sharon Nesbit, 665-0423.

Cathy Hamme, 667-7760, says she is gathering plants for the plant sale that will be held during the social. If you have plants you would like to donate but need help with the digging call her or Sam Cox, 665-9086.

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VISIT A MUSEUM...

With all the home tours and teas and ice cream socials and potlucks, we sometimes forget we're in the museum business. Both of our museums, the Harlow House, and the Rail Depot, are open every Sunday afternoon, May through September, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Buttons are on exhibit at both museums. At the depot, we have a new display drawer we call "From the conductor's pockets" with all the pins, buttons, badges, keys and doodads that came from the pockets of Gail Meyers, member and retired conductor.

At the Harlow House our summer exhibit is a button collection belonging to Mary Pearsall and Laura Adams.

Of course, it would be impossible to have our museums open without the help volunteers who host at the depot and fill in occasionally at the Harlow House. If you want to help this summer, call Doris Caramella, 253-7010.

WRITE TO SAVE EDGEFIELD...

Time is short on this one because Bob Sturges says the Multnomah County Commissioners plan to meet May 8 to decide whether or not to tear down Edgefield Manor, the old county poor farm.

You can help by writing the commissioners at 1021 SW Fourth Ave., Portland, Ore. 97204.

Sturges took an architect from the Historic Preservation League of Oregon through Edgefield recently. The architect said that, properly rehabilitated, the building would make a fine corporate headquarters for any firm that might buy the county farm land. He also said the building could be sealed up and preserved until that time.

We are asking the board not to tear down Edgefield at this time but to wait until the property is sold to see if the new owners can make use of the historic structure.

MORE HISTORIC BUILDINGS...

Mary Allen has picked up where we left off on our study of Troutdale houses in March and is planning to gather history on every old house in Troutdale. If you lived in any of Troutdale's old houses, get in touch with her. Her address is 411 SE Roberts, Gresham, 97030. Drop her a line and tell you what you know. (Remember, written history lasts longer than casual conversation over the phone.)

And Tom Wetherell, 307 SW 8th Circle, Troutdale, 97060, is putting together a history of the Cherry Park Presbyterian Church. We always thought the church had its beginnings in the old church at Third and Harlow Streets. However, Tom is puzzled by one account that says that before the congregation met in that church, they were in an "old building" across the road, "where Virgil Davis' garage" stands. Does anyone know where Virgil Davis' garage stood in 1961 when that account was written?

NEW GIFTS...

Among our new gifts to the museum is a wonderful collection of old bottles, dug up from an old trash pile on Jackson Park Road, as well as a wild and weird assortment of eggbeaters and a vintage toaster, all from Orlin and Barbara Huston, now residents of Arizona. They are all on display in the dining room cabinet of the Harlow House.

Eloise Butler gave us a wonderfully wacky and very old can-opener. John Nasmyth donated a pound coffee can. Helen Althaus gave an elegant Victorian doll buggy which needs some expert restoration. If you know anyone who can do the job give us a call.

Mary Pearsall give vintage clothing.

BRIDGE WORK...

Ig Wand called and was interested in finding out just when the Stark Street Bridge over the Sandy River was built. Wand remembers the accident that doomed the old bridge - the day a gravel truck fell right through the old span.

On April 28, 1914, the Gresham Outlook reported that men engaged in hauling gravel from the old gravel pit across the Sandy River had "a most terrible experience." The heavy load proved to be too much for the old structure (bridge) which was built about 30 years before and the bridge gave way.

The paper reported that the truck went right through the bottom of the bridge into the river. No one was killed but a "Mr. Bramhall, road superintendent" had severe injuries.

On Feb. 23, 1915, the paper reported that the new Sandy River bridge was ready for travel. It was declared "one of the finest bridges in Multnomah County," steel and concrete with a floor of wooden blocks tarred and laid in reinforced concrete. The span is 200 feet long and the retaining walls at the ends were built in stonework to match the type used on the Columbia River Highway.

The cost was \$21,000.

COOKIE RECIPES...

We are still collecting your best cookie recipes for a new version of our cookbook. We'd like to have it ready to sell at our Christmas party in December at the Harlow House which, naturally, features the best cookies in, possibly, the world.

If you have a recipe you would like to submit for our consideration, send it to Troutdale Historical Society, 104 S.E. Kibling St., Troutdale, 97060.

NEWSLETTER A WHOPPER...

This may just be our biggest newsletter ever, so it's a good time to remind you of people who make sure it gets to you. After it is edited and written, Sharon Nesbit runs off a set of 390 mailing labels on her computer. Mary Eaton is our volunteer who prints it each month. Ted and Lois Schulte tote it all home to Sandy where they fold it, staple it and put on the labels. Then they tote it back to Troutdale to be mailed.

NEW IN THE HARLOW GARDEN...

Cathy Hamme will be creating a lovely new flower bed in the Harlow House front yard just west of the walnut tree. The money to plant clematis and other shrubs came from her family. They made the donations in memory of Cathy's brother, Carl Warren, who died in March.

BINGO EVERY THURSDAY...

Bingo happens every Thursday beginning at 7 p.m. in the Troutdale City Park Building. Be there by 6:45 p.m. if you want to play early bird bingo.

Volunteer callers, cashiers, food workers and floorworkers are all being trained from our society as well as the Lions, Lionesses and Parks Task Force, all sponsors of the weekly games.

More than 60 people turned up April 24 resulting in a profit for the evening.

Sam Cox hopes to build our museum barn with bingo money.

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NAMES IN THE NEWS...

Chuck Pulliam, husband of member Jeanne Pulliam, died. He was former chairman of the Troutdale Planning Commission and a Columbia River fisherman...Our new members are: Mike and Peggy Rice; Eloise Butler, Joan Randle, Bob and Laura Adams, Connie Andrus, Rowena Piluso, Lawrence and Bobby Armstrong, Donna and Bob Hawkins, Mike and Elaine Dubesa and Marjorie Griffth...Rowena, incidentally, is interested in finding any descendants of a family named Yaw who originally homesteaded in the Jackson Park Road area, no relation apparently to the people who owned Yaw's Top Notch...Nick Frackleton is representing the historical society on the Citizens Advisory Committee that is meeting to review the Troutdale comprehensive plan...Harold Beldin wrote a history last month about how he and his family used to ride the trolley car to Troutdale to go smelt fishing...Herb Nasmyth wrote about the members of his family who lived in the Jim and Joan Randle home, Cherry Park Road just east of the Presbyterian church...Gerhardt Von Kohlbeck pruned the roses at the Harlow House...Dorothy Larson worked at Vista House in the name of the historical society. That qualified us to sell our recipes there...Longtime members Harold and Myrta Weatherhood, Oregon City, visited Troutdale with relatives and toured the Harlow House for the first time...Helen Tiller came from Cannon Beach last month to tell about her years in Troutdale. She gave the society an old copper coin that was good for one schooner of beer at the Pioneer saloon of her father-in-law, A.T. Tiller...Last month the name of Cathy Hamme was left out of the list of people who helped with the spaghetti dinner. Cathy is a hard-working volunteer who noticed the omission while she was carefully hand-coloring each of the 390 newsletters that were sent to members last month.

TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 104 SE Kibling
 Troutdale, Ore. 97060

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