



## BYGONE TIMES

April 2014

### Upcoming Events mark your calendar!

**Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m.—2 p.m. Harlow House, 726 E. Historic Columbia River Highway & Barn Museum, 732 E. Historic Columbia River Highway** will be open

**Sunday, April 27, 2 p.m., Sam Cox Building, 1106 E Columbia River Hwy, THS annual membership meeting**

**Friday, May 2, 5 p.m.—8 p.m., Depot Museum, 473 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy, “First Friday.”** Peg Willis book signing.

**Saturday, May 17, Cemetery Tour, Rose City Cemetery, Northeast, with Japanese Cemetery, Gypsy/Roma burials/ and spectacular granite stones.** Lunch at Peninsula Park .

### Troutdale Historical Society is 46

The THS annual meeting is at 2 pm, Sunday, April 27, Sam K. Cox Building, Glenn Otto Community Park. Please come for: State of the historical society, electing officers, announcement of Member of the Year, birthday cake and to hear Sharon Nesbit speak on the history of our organization.

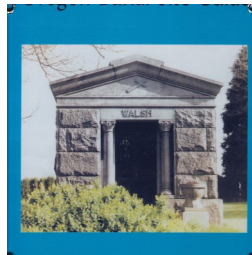
Dave and Jennifer Munson smile for the camera at our 2011 annual meeting. David Ripma is seated behind them.

The Munsons are longtime volunteers for our society. Dave has just retired as our handyman at the Harlow House and Barn (and has written a guide on how to do the job for anyone who is willing to replace him.) Jennifer is our librarian.



### Cemetery tour covers sites in Portland

Reminder that the cemetery tour is Saturday, May 17. Arrive at the Barn Museum, 732 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy. by 9 a.m. for departure by 9:30 am. There is a \$10 per person charge to help offset the costs. Please bring a sack lunch for a picnic at Peninsula Park and dress appropriately for the weather. To sign up for the tour call the office at 503 661-2164.



**Your annual dues are due. Please see inside for form. And thank you.**

## Sixty-five crowd barn for story of ancient floods

It was standing room only Sunday, March 23, when sixty-five people crowded into the Barn Museum to hear Jim Urbaniak (President of the Oregon Agate and Mineral Society) offer a presentation on the “Mega-floods that helped form the Columbia River Gorge”. Fighting through a bad case of walking pneumonia Jim’s presentation fascinated the crowd. At the end of his presentation Jim Urbaniak donated two glacial erratics to THS.

The Troutdale Historical Society and the Vista House at Crown Point partnered to organize the lecture and presentation. This was the first joint venture between the Vista House and the Troutdale Historical Society.

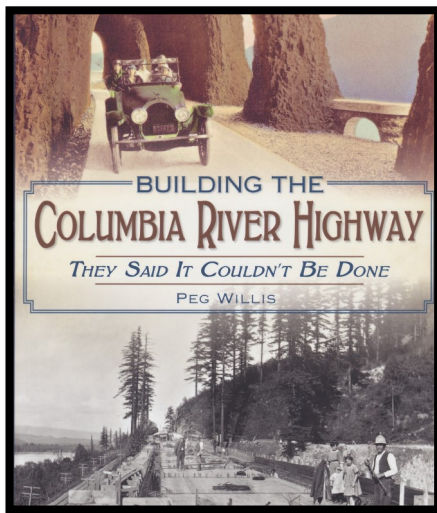
More joint programs will occur next fall and winter.



Richard-Rock-Ranch-Oregon agate and Mineral Society

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## New book on building highway now at Depot



Peg Willis, Pendleton, a member of the Friends of Vista House and Friends of the Historic Columbia River Highway, has written a book on the building of the Columbia River Highway, tracing the road from Troutdale east to The Dalles, and telling stories along the way.

“Building the Columbia River Highway— They Said It Couldn’t Be Done,” has dozens of photos from scores of sources (including some from Troutdale Historical Society). It is dedicated to the late Clarence Mershon. Peg also follows up on the old road, explaining what happened to landmarks, bridges and road sites after the initial construction. Priced at \$19.99 Columbia River Highway book story is a great gift for Mother’s or Father’s Day, or any highway fan.

**Espenel CDs : Interview of Richard Espenel by Jim Glenn are now available at the depot for \$10.**

## Happy Birthday, Troutdale Historical Society

### Sharon Nesbit

With our annual meeting coming up April 27, it's a good time to talk about our own history.

We first got together on a bleak February evening, Feb. 28, 1968, in city hall to talk about the prospect of creating a historical society. There was a fanciful notion at the time, that someday, we would like to have the old Harlow House, then occupied by Lee and Mabel Evans, as a museum.

In March of that year we began signing up charter members of the Troutdale Historical Society. Among those still with us after 46 years: Louise Dix, Barbara Lampert, Sharon Nesbit, Irene Simons, Alfred Stoeckel, Kay Struckman and Dorothy Sturges.

Our history is recorded in the book, "It Could Have Been Carpdale", and we won't repeat that here, but it is a good time to recall stories that didn't make print.

Jean Holman and I were remembering our former director, the late Ellen Brothers. In those days, the society's office was upstairs in the Harlow House and we made a practice each summer of hanging a bright pot of petunias on the porch, a lovely color accent against the old white house. Ellen, who handled all other emergencies with aplomb, was supposed to water the petunias, but she was not good with plants. "They are so needy," she said. We all had to cover for her to save the life of those petunias.



Bob Kerslake and Fay Davis, both now deceased, lent their considerable skills to building our first museum in in the park in 1976.

We remember our first evening meeting in the Harlow House in the late fall of 1979. We had just moved from our original museum in the park and decided to show off the house. What none of us figured out, was that the Harlow House had no lights in the front room. We were bumbling around in the dark bumping into piles of boxes and artifacts until we could secure a supply of floor lamps.

And the day we paid the mortgage off on the Harlow House, Sadie Riley made real estate type signs to post all over the lawn saying: "Paid For". We remember Burns Bros. truck stops coming in at the last minute with \$12,000 to get a roof on our barn before winter. Whew. And the McMenamin brothers showing up to buy Edgefield when it seemed likely we would lose the old poor farm.

We are coming up on the 50<sup>th</sup> year of our organization, likely with a lot more surprises to come. Pay your dues. Make a gift to our highway exhibit. Give us some of your time. Or write your own history and get it to us. That's what we're here for.





### Pictures from our past:

Top left: Dedication of an Oregon Trail Marker at the factory outlet, from left: Florence Baker, Vera Strebin, Bob Strebin, Helen Althaus, Nancy Cox. Middle: A shot from above of our 1982 ice cream social in the park. Bottom: Vera Rueck sits at center of Jean Hybskmann's tea table at the May 2003 event at the Franciscan Sisters at Bridal Veil. Top: Laura Imthurn pounds the piano at our annual meeting in 1976.





## The Smelt are back

Troutdale had a smelt run, March 15 and 22nd. Smelt are listed as an endangered species, but some limited dipping was allowed this year.

### Thank you to:

Larry McGinnis and his grandson who spent two days power washing the caboose.

Joanne Losinger and Janet McGinnis who prepared our mailing for membership renewal.

To Lois Malone and Mario Ayala for hosting the Harlow House.

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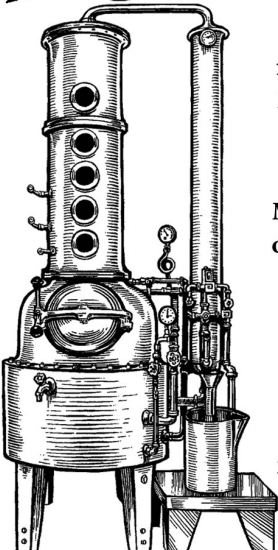


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# Thank you!

for remembering

## The Troutdale Historical Society

Preserving the history of Troutdale, the Sandy River and Columbia River Gorge. Caretakers of the Harlow House museum, Barn museum, and Troutdale Rail Depot museum.

Annual Dues: \$20 Individual      \$30 Family      \$100 Lovers Oak  
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Donations are tax deductible. THS is a 501c3 nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID# 93-0738777

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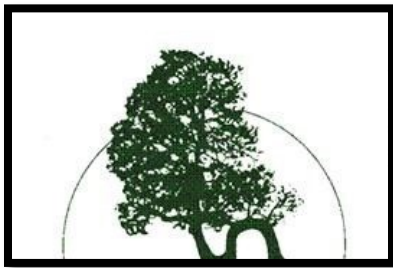
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**Mission Statement:** To gather, preserve and make available material relating to their history of the community of Troutdale, the Sandy River, the Columbia River Gorge and nearby area: To stimulate interest in the knowledge of, the locality's past.

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Remember: THS is a 501 c (3), so your donations are tax deductible and help support the museums, programs, preservation of artifacts and local history. Thank you for your continued support.