

# ByGone Times

Quarterly Newsletter of the Troutdale Historical Society

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## Restoration of Historic Columbia River Highway

In a captivating presentation held at the Sam Cox Building in Glenn Otto Park on February 18th, 2024, history aficionados and curious minds alike were treated to a riveting exploration of the Restoration of the Historic Columbia River Highway (HCRH). Led by the esteemed Jeanette Kloos, retired Coordinator of the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area for ODOT, the session delved deep into the intricate tapestry of the highway's rich history and the complexities of its restoration.

With over 35 years dedicated to the preservation and revitalization of the HCRH, Kloos brought a wealth of expertise to the table, painting a vivid picture of the highway's evolution and the tireless efforts behind its restoration. Attendees were enthralled as Kloos expertly navigated through decades of history, weaving together stories of resilience, innovation, and community spirit. The program, attended by approximately 60 eager individuals, was not only an enlightening educational experience but also a delightful affair filled with camaraderie and excitement.

A favored highlight of the event was undoubtedly the free raffle, offering enticing prizes such as vintage THS wine glasses, a charming stuffed Finn the Trout, and a coveted THS Yeti mug. From the intriguing anecdotes to the invaluable insights shared by Kloos, the presentation left a lasting impression, igniting a renewed appreciation for the timeless beauty and significance of the Historic Columbia River Highway. As we reflect on this insightful journey through time, one thing is abundantly clear: the legacy of the HCRH continues to inspire and unite us all.



## Meet Our New Director

Meet Chris Garza, THS's dynamic new Director, blending a lifelong passion for history with a dedication to community service. A history buff since childhood, Chris serves as an officer and Historian at Fairview Masonic Lodge No 92. Off-duty, you'll find him coaching East County Little League or enjoying outdoor pursuits with his wife Angel and their six children. Originally from the East Coast, Chris owned and sold an HVAC/R/Mechanical company before relocating to Oregon. With a degree in Business Administration, he seamlessly merges his entrepreneurial acumen with his love for historical preservation. From reading to shoe cobbling, Chris's diverse hobbies enrich his leadership at THS. Join us in welcoming Chris, whose vibrant energy and expertise promise to chart an exciting course for Troutdale's historical journey.

We'd love your thoughts on our new newsletter layout! Share your feedback and opinions with us at [troutdalehistory@gmail.com](mailto:troutdalehistory@gmail.com) or call us at (503)661-2164. Your input is invaluable!

## Unveiling the Heroes of Heritage: Julia Warner and Twila Mysinger Illuminate THS's Legacy

In the illustrious annals of the THS volunteer force, few shine as brightly as Julia Warner and Twila Mysinger, two extraordinary individuals whose tireless efforts have left an indelible mark on the Harlow House and Barn Museum and the broader community.

Julia Warner, a stalwart of volunteering for six years, has poured over 6,000 hours into myriad initiatives, propelling the museum to unprecedented heights. Her crowning achievement? The meticulous digitization of THS's extensive collection, involving the entry of approximately 7,000 handwritten and typed 3x5" cards into the Past Perfect (PP) software. Teaming up with Twila, they meticulously cataloged documents and ensured every object in THS's collection was properly documented and updated. But Julia's dedication transcends the confines of the museum; she's spent countless hours sprucing up the museum's yard and gardens, recognizing the importance of maintaining its external charm.

Reflecting on her journey, Julia humbly shares her motivation, driven by a thirst for knowledge and a desire to contribute to the rich tapestry of local history. Her partnership with Twila has been transformative, spearheading the transition from archaic record-keeping methods to modern digitization.



Julia Warner



Twila Mysinger

Enter Twila Mysinger, a curator and researcher with an insatiable curiosity for history's hidden gems. Since 2021, Twila's been delicately unraveling the threads of history, preserving fading artifacts and documents with dedication and adaptability. Her transition to remote volunteering during the pandemic showcased her resilience and commitment to her craft.

Twila's expertise extends to inventory management, where each artifact becomes a chapter in her treasure hunt. With over 25 years of volunteering experience, she brings a wealth of knowledge to Troutdale Historical Society and beyond. But it's her infectious passion that truly sets her apart, infusing every task, whether deciphering attic mysteries or researching family histories, with enthusiasm and meaning.

Collaborations, like the dynamic duo of Julia and Twila, epitomize the spirit of teamwork and mutual respect within THS. Together, they've brought the society into the digital age while preserving its rich heritage for future generations. As we celebrate Julia Warner and Twila Mysinger's remarkable contributions, we're reminded of the profound impact of volunteerism. Their dedication, passion, and innovation serve as a beacon of inspiration, illustrating that with commitment and collaboration, we can truly make a difference in preserving our shared history for posterity.

## Harlow House Unveils Three Time-Traveling Treasures

Step back in time and explore history's intricate details at the Fred E. Harlow House Museum and home's latest exhibit unveiling. In the heart of the Dining Room, three captivating mini-exhibits await discovery.

"Medical Care Back in the Day" offers a fascinating glimpse into early healthcare practices, featuring intriguing artifacts such as ear trumpets, vintage first-aid items, and an array of elixirs and medicines. Delve into the past with hand-written recipes for ailments like rheumatism relief.

Discover the elegance of bygone eras with "Glassware," showcasing a diverse collection ranging from charming Shawnee Pottery pitchers to exquisite cocktail glasses from Union Pacific trains. Marvel at the iridescent beauty of Vaseline glass cordials. Lastly, "Dishware" presents a curated selection of beloved serving bowls, plates, platters, and a charming pink depression glass salt and pepper set.



# Past History Pubs



## National Neon Sign Museum

February 12, 2024

**David and Simon Benko**

Bright lights in small glass tubes characterize neon signage, without which Las Vegas wouldn't be Las Vegas. David Benko became a collector at an early age of all things neon sign related, and turned his obsession into a collection he now shares with the world through his brainchild, the National Neon Sign Museum. Benko shared how he and a friend made "roadtrips," without telling his parents exactly where they were going, and found a treasure trove of history along the way. If you missed the show, the Museum is close, located in The Dalles. To see more check out [www.nationalneonmuseum.com](http://www.nationalneonmuseum.com).

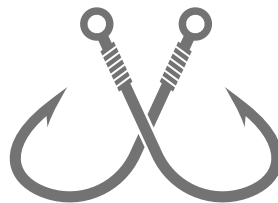


## Sea Otters of the Oregon Coast

March 11, 2024

**Cameron La Follette**

Speaking to a near-capacity crowd in Blackberry Hall, Executive Director of the Oregon Coast Alliance, Cameron La Follette illustrated in vivid terms the extirpation over time of sea otters on the Oregon Coast. Hunted for their incredibly luxurious fur, they garnered huge wealth for those who controlled the trade, but by 1911 none were left to hunt. The Elakha Alliance is exploring the possible reintroduction of sea otters to the Oregon coastline. As a keystone species, sea otters would benefit kelp and eelgrass beds, which in turn would provide habitat for marine fish and invertebrates. They also likely would boost local tourism. More info at [www.elakhaalliance.org](http://www.elakhaalliance.org).



## Salmon Fishing on the Columbia River

January 23, 2024

**Chuck Rollins & Steve Lehl**

If you have seen Chuck and Steve's show in the past and did not see this one, you missed a lot. The Corbett pair have expanded their show by close to 50%, and the slides tell the captivating story of the heyday and decline of the fish runs. While sad, there are promising developments on the horizon. For more on the story, the May 13 History Pub will feature Peter Marbach, Portland photographer, with his presentation, "The Big River: Salmon Dreams and the Columbia River Treaty."



Join us every second Monday of the month, except December, for McMenamins History Pubs at Blackberry Hall, Edgefield property. Dive into intriguing historical discussions while enjoying great food and drinks. See you there!

**Doors at 6pm / Program at 7pm**

**\$5 at the door or purchase online [HERE](#)  
2126 SW Halsey St, Troutdale, OR 97060**

## New Weather Operating Procedures Enhance Safety Measures

Effective immediately, our museums and office will enact new weather operating procedures to safeguard staff and artifacts. In case of snow or ice, both facilities will close, prioritizing safety amidst hazardous conditions. Additionally, we've secured a 5200-square-foot storage facility at the Masonic Lodge for emergencies like wildfires or flooding. This centralized location, just minutes from our museums, ensures swift accessibility and enhanced artifact protection. These measures reflect our dedication to safety and preservation, reinforcing our commitment to protecting our heritage. We thank our community for their cooperation as we implement these safeguards. We recommend that you create an account with [FlashAlert.net](https://FlashAlert.net) where all our closures will be posted. The weather SOP will be available at the office and by request.

## New Security for the Museums

Our museums have recently upgraded to a cutting-edge security system by Portland Security Alarm. This modern solution prioritizes user-friendliness, promising effortless navigation for staff. Expect significant savings through optimized energy consumption and operational costs. State-of-the-art sensors eradicate false alarms, ensuring uninterrupted peace of mind. Beyond security, it signifies a step towards modernity. With remote monitoring and control features, managing security is simpler than ever. Enhanced service includes faster response times and proactive maintenance, ensuring our museums' security remains paramount.

## A History of the Burdizzo: From Farmyards to Controversy



In the annals of animal husbandry, the Burdizzo stands as a testament to innovation – and perhaps a touch of brutality. Developed by a company bearing its name, this castration device revolutionized the livestock industry with its efficient clamp mechanism, reducing the risks of bleeding and infection in cattle and sheep. Yet, its journey veered into controversy when some humans adopted it for self-castration, despite safety concerns. A clever tool turned contentious, the Burdizzo reminds us that even in the realm of agriculture, history can take unexpected turns.

## Friends of History Remembered

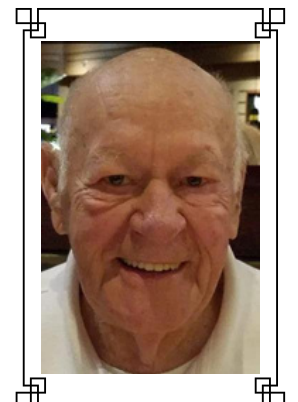
### Janet “Jan” Vandiver

Janet Eleanor Vandiver, January 15, 1942 - February 3, 2024, is fondly remembered for her unwavering warmth and generosity. An esteemed member of THS, she delighted all with her homemade cookies and refreshments at events. A past Volunteer of the Year at The Troutdale Historical Society, Janet touched countless lives with her boundless kindness. Beyond her volunteer work, she reveled in family gatherings and cherished moments with friends, sharing in games, puzzles, and adventures. Her legacy of love and laughter will forever resonate with those fortunate enough to have known her. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to THS in Janet's memory, honoring her dedication and passion for community service.



### Edward “Ed” Schmunk

Edward Donald Schmunk, born February 18, 1930, passed away on January 29, 2024. A Korean War veteran and dedicated member of the Oregon Air National Guard, Edward served his country with honor. After retiring, he worked at Barlow High School until 2013, endearing himself to students and staff alike. Alongside his wife Marge, an incredible woman devoted to community service, Edward's love for community and history shone through. Marge, equally dedicated as a volunteer, took her passion for history seriously, enriching the lives of many. Together, they formed an inspiring team, impacting their community with their kindness and dedication. Edward also coached his sons' baseball teams and enjoyed fishing. Remembered for his kindness and ever-present smile, Edward's legacy lives on in the hearts of all who knew him, his impact extending far beyond his family and friends.



## EVENTS &amp; PROGRAMS

## HISTORY PUBS

~Blackberry Hall at McMenamins Edgefield~

2126 SW Halsey St, Troutdale, OR 97060

Doors at 6:00pm / Program at 7:00pm / \$5

**Monday, April 8th:**

*So Long Joel Palmer - How the Superintendent of Indian Affairs Lost His Job* - Presented by Dr. William L. Lang, PhD

**Monday, May 13th:**

*The Big River - Salmon Dreams and the Columbia River Treaty* - Presented by Peter Marbach

**Monday, June 10th:**

*Environmental History, Climate Change, and Wildfires* - Presented by Bill Robbins

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 THS PROGRAMS

~Sam Cox Building at Glenn Otto Park~

1102 E Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR 97060

Doors at 1:00pm / Program at 2:00pm / FREE

**Sunday, April 21st:**

*Geology of Sandy River Canyon* -  
Presented by Prof. Daina Hardisty

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 THS EVENTS

~Barn Exhibit Hall~

732 E Historic Columbia River Hwy, Troutdale, OR 97060

**Wednesday, April 17th**

*Yarn at the Barn* - Presented by Jamie LaCour  
*Event begins at 10:00am and ends at Noon*

**Saturday, May 4th:**

*Words for Mom - Local Authors Book Signing*  
*Event begins at Noon and ends at 3:00pm*

**Attending Authors:**

**Sharon Nesbit, Helen Wand, Julie Stewart, Ken Manske, Wendy Thompson, Scott Burns PhD, and Kathleen McManis Overton.**

Books will be available at the Gift Shop, or bring your own copy. Members receive 10% off all purchases!

## Troutdale's Silvery Spectacle: The Smelt Saga



On Friday, March 1st— as though on cue— smelt appeared in the Sandy River in Troutdale.

The small, oily 5"-8" fish swam upriver in droves, while eager riverbank watchers hoped that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) would open a season for dippers of the silvery fish.

Unlike most anadromous fish, smelt are caught by use of a dip net, with a handle as long as 15'. Tribes welcomed eulachons (smelt) as they represented the first fresh fish since autumn. Meriwether Lewis of Lewis and Clark fame declared of smelt, "...I think them superior to any fish I ever tasted...", and after tasting their first, men of the expedition immediately traded for more. Dried with a wick strung through the center, they burned with a smoky light, earning the name "candlefish."

Later, European settlers dipped them as fertilizer for farm fields. Today, a smelt season is a rarity; since 2010 they are considered a "Threatened Species."

Historically, Troutdale was the only river entirely within Oregon to be blessed with smelt runs. Overnight, the city went from being the 'Gateway to the Gorge' to 'Smelt Central,' with nets for rent sprouting like sunflowers from front yards. People from all over crowded the riverbanks, hoping for their share of the silvery catch. Now, when word goes out that ODFW will allow a season, people line the shore, waiting for the magic hour set as start time. No one wants to be early; state police with their own watches, binoculars to their eyes, scan for violations.

When told of this run, THS Board member Joy Beldin echoed the long-ago words of Lewis, "I love smelt! Any chance you are dipping and could spare a few for me?" Sorry, Joy.

**NEW MEMBERS**

- Angel Garza
- Ron & Katie Goodwin
- Michele Houghtaling
- Lance Ylitalo

**NEW BUSINESS SPONSORS**

- Historic Troutdale Barbershop

**DONORS - MEMORIAL FUND**

- Len Otto  
*In Memory of Jan Vandiver*
- Suzan Turley  
*In Memory of Jan Vandiver*
- Ron and Jan Pensel  
*In Memory of Jan Vandiver*
- Nancy Callister Buley  
*In Memory of Vaden and Jo Callister*
- Dr. Robert & Tami Campbell  
*In Memory of Ginger Harlow Allen*
- Richard Kerslake  
*In Memory of Dorothy Kerslake*

We've updated how we recognize our donors and members in the newsletter.

We'll continue to highlight new members and donations made in memory/honor in each edition. April will have our Operating Fund donors and October will showcase all current members.

**Renew your membership or donate through our website**

**HOURS**

**Barn Exhibit Hall**

Thursday - Sunday / Noon - 3pm

**Harlow House**

Thursday - Sunday / Noon - 3pm

**Rail Depot**

Thurs-Mon / 9am- 5pm

Tue-Wed / 9am- 3pm

**DONORS - GENERAL FUND**

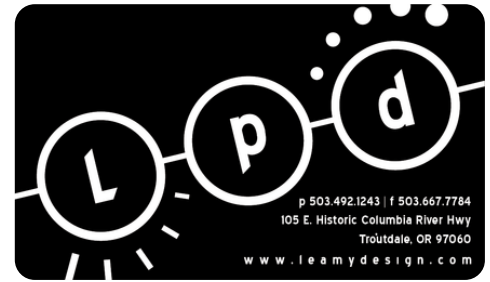
- Robert Baker
- Joy Beldin
- Jane Berver
- Kelly & Karla Broomall
- Mary & Dennis Bryson
- Dr. Robert & Tami Campbell
- Annell Carlson
- Sandy Cartisser
- Jodi Cox
- Gerald Davis
- DAR – Oregon Trail Chapter
- Kathleen Douglass
- Charles & Sharon Ellis
- Sandy & Ronald Evans
- Robert Frost
- Susan Garman
- Joe & Peggy Gorciak
- Steve & Kathy Green
- Madeline Grimm
- Jim & Shereen Gurtisen
- Greg & Sue Handy
- Eric & Peggy Hazen
- Sally Hicks
- Marilyn K. Howell
- Jere & Roberta Hudson
- Dayle Kasner
- Wilma Konkell
- Steven W Letteng
- Jeanette Kloos
- Jamie Martin
- Doug & Elise McGuire
- McMenamins, Inc.
- Mike & Mary Alice McMenamin
- Michel & Andrea Mershon
- Mel & Shirley Miller
- Marilyn Morrison
- Patricia Morron
- Trisha & Jeff Neiger
- Sharon Nesbit
- Sue O'Halloran & Allen Richard
- Len & Gloria Otto
- Joann Otto
- Sharon Petri & Tom Arbuckle
- Leslie Radke
- Joanne Ray
- David Ripma
- Debbie Schoepper
- Rodger & Dawn Sellin
- Bruce & Maxine Stannard
- Lori Stegmann
- Julia Stewart
- Marge Stewart
- Kay Struckman

**Unveiling Little Bo Peep:  
A Pitcher Perfect Artifact**

In a delightful twist of history, our local museum's latest addition—a pitcher straight from a nursery rhyme—charms visitors young and old. Crafted by Shawnee Pottery artisans in the 1940s, this whimsical artifact, nearly 8” tall, evokes memories of Little Bo Peep. Shawnee Pottery, once a cherished institution in Zanesville, Ohio, enchanted the world with its imaginative creations, even finding its way into wartime mess halls. As we marvel at this treasure, we're reminded of the enduring power of storytelling and craftsmanship.

**Little Bo Peep now on display at the Harlow House.**





## A Message from the President of THS



Dave Ripma

In January, the Troutdale Historical Society introduced Chris Garza as our new Director, a seasoned historian and preservationist. With a background in business, technology, and social media, Chris has already revamped our website and boosted our online presence significantly. Kudos to Greg Handy for meticulously managing the installation of our new alarm system. Heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated volunteers and generous donors for their invaluable support during our 56th year. Don't miss our Annual Meeting on April 21st at the Sam Cox Building, featuring a captivating talk by Daina Hardisty from Mt Hood Community College on the "Geology of the Sandy River Canyon." If you haven't met Chris yet, swing by the Barn to say hello. We're eagerly anticipating your presence!

Warm regards,  
Dave Ripma  
THS Board President

## THS BOARD

### Executive Board

- President: Dave Ripma
- Vice President: Norm Thomas
- Treasurer: Marilee Thompson
- Secretary: Open

### Board Members

- Joy Beldin, Helen Wand,
- Jean Ice, Jeff Neiger,
- Len Otto, Bruce Stannard,
- Diane Castillo-White

### Past Presidents

- Norm Thomas, Erin Janssens,
- Bettianne Goetz, Sharon Nesbit, Len Otto, Dave Ripma, Helen Wand



# Troutdale Historical Society

## Preserving The Past, Embracing The Future

Membership includes free entry to all our museums, 10% off Barn Store gift shop merchandise, quarterly newsletters by mail or email, and \$10 off membership for the Oregon Historical Society.

- \$20 Individual Membership
- \$30 Family Membership
- \$100 Lovers Oak Club
- \$200 Lovers Oak Club ~ Family
- \$250 Business Sponsor
- \$500 Corporate Sponsor
- \$1000 Captain's Circle ~ Lifetime
- \*\$15 Gift Membership given by \_\_\_\_\_

(Current Member Name)

- Membership Dues Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Donation Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- General Operating Fund
  - Endowment Fund in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Payment:  Cash  Check  Credit Card

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

(Visa, Master Card, Discovery ONLY)

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV # \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form to:  
 Troutdale Historical Society  
 219 E Historic Columbia River Hwy  
 Troutdale, OR 97060

### Thank you for your support!

\*Current Members can give an *Individual Membership* to a friend or family member for only \$15 for their first year.

The Troutdale Historical Society is organized and shall be operated exclusively to gather, preserve and make available museum, record, and other material relating to the history of the community of Troutdale, the northern portion of the Sandy River, and nearby areas to stimulate an interest in, and knowledge of the locality's past.

Mail Address:  
 219 E Historic Columbia River Hwy  
 Troutdale, OR, 97060

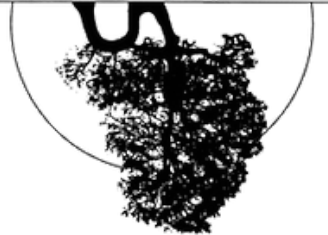
Office Location:  
 732 E Historic Columbia River Hwy  
 Troutdale, OR, 97060

Phone: 503-661-2164

Email: Troutdalehistory@gmail.com

Website: www.TroutdaleHistory.org

TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 Troutdale, OR 97060



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 Presorted Standard  
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 Troutdale, OR  
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Change Service  
 Requested