

BYGONE TIMES

The Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May 2001

Bygone Times Celebrates 30th Birthday!

Recently, while sorting out some papers from the Rail Depot museum, we came across old copies of our Troutdale Historical Society newsletters and stumbled on a first edition of the newsletter in March, 1971, which means that this publication overshot its 30 anniversary two months ago. Oooops!

The publication of a genuine newsletter was announced in this fashion in March 1971: "At a recent meeting of the board of directors...it was agreed to send a monthly newsletter in lieu of the usual postcard meeting notice. This is the first edition edited by Mrs. Glenn (Helen) Otto, recording secretary, and Mrs. William (Sharon) Nesbit, historical secretary."

Since that time, both Helen Otto and Sharon Nesbit earned their first names and we have published no fewer than 10 newsletters a year, and often more than that. Coincidental to our anniversary date, Sharon Nesbit, editor for the last 30 years, has left the day-to-day work of the newsletter to Director Laura Newton, though she continues to contribute on a regular basis.

That first newsletter mentioned that our dues were \$2 a person and that Justa Hewitt was our treasurer. Mary Knarr and Marjorie Matches were going to bring refreshments to the next meeting and Alex Jones was president of our society and urging people to bring friends to bring our membership over the 100 mark.

At the time, we were having a lot of fun sorting out the details of a 1920s event we have come to call The Great Troutdale Pool Hall Robbery, in which more than 20 Troutdale males were held up in the pool hall by an armed gunman, who was shot in the process.

And we were working with Clare Blesher who had just begun the research that would establish that the trail behind the Harlow House -- now called Robins Way -- was indeed a branch used by Oregon Trail travelers when they left the Sandy River and headed overland to Oregon City.

Throughout the rest of the year, we will be featuring pieces from our early newsletters. If you have something you particularly remember being covered in *Bygone Times*, give us a call!

Third Annual Cemetery Tour Seeks Out Pioneer Burials

For the third year in a row, graveyard fans will board a school bus May 20 for a tour of local cemeteries with our leader Stan Clarke, who calls cemeteries "history parks."

We meet at Troutdale City Hall at 1 p.m. on Sunday, May 20 (PLEASE NOTE EARLIER HOUR) leaving city hall at 1:30 p.m. for our tour. Please join us first for a brief business meeting at the announcement of our annual Member of the Year award.

Our trip this year, with tour director Sharon Petri aboard, takes us to the Rose City and Japanese cemeteries, both at about 60th and NE Fremont.

"Rose City has a lot of Gypsy burials and more vertical monuments than any other. The Japanese cemetery is very compact and contains markers with Japanese and English and also markers only in Japanese. It was started by Blaesing Granite," says Clarke, who is a member of the State of Oregon's Pioneer Cemetery Commission. Also on the day's agenda are visits to the Columbia Pioneer and Powell Grove cemeteries, both important to people in Fairview area. The last stop before returning to Troutdale City Hall will be at Wilkes School to look across the freeway at the Unknown Pioneer Child.

Stan may have other surprise stops as well. We plan to be back to city hall at about 5 p.m. Cost of this trip is minimal. We pass the hat for a donation to cover bus costs, and it is always nice to tip our driver. You might bring water or other drinks, especially if the day is warm.

Calendar of Events

Saturday, May 5
11 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Tea and Tour

Saturday, May 12
8:30 a.m. - Depart from
Harlow House
Spring Trek

Saturday, May 20
1 p.m. - Depart from City Hall
Cemetery Tour

Saturday and Sunday
June 1 and 2
33rd Ice Cream Social
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Glenn Otto Park

From *Laura* at the Harlow House

I love hearing stories about Laura Harlow! Sharon thinks it's "quite fitting" that there's a Laura working in the house and I think I have to agree! Here is a tidbit Sharon dug up recently and I thought I would share it with you:

Shortly after her election as Troutdale's second woman mayor in 1928, Laura Harlow, resident of the Harlow House, was interviewed by The Oregonian about her views on city improvement.

She told the Oregonian that expansion of her city was the "avowed administration policy" of her administration, adding that she wanted to extend Troutdale city limits north to include the Sun Dial Ranch and west to the street car depot.

"Troutdale, you know, is now the celery capital of America, if not the whole world," she said, "and we need to perk up in harmony with our growing importance.

"Our city is, of course, on the main Columbia highway line of travel, and a great many people pass through the main street every day. For that reason I think we should foster civic pride and make Troutdale just as attractive as possible."

The story went on to point out that Laura Harlow was asked to run for mayor at the last moment, but there was no opposition to her election. And it concluded "she has always been of the Republican faith."

Make sure you come by and see the egg cups! Laura

Ike Handy Charms Crowd With Stories

Ike Handy told tales of coming to Troutdale to run a gas station in the late 1930s at our April 16 meeting. A large crowd turned out to hear the oral history interview, which was video taped for our library.

His wife June was stuck at home speechless with laryngitis, but Ike told the story of the two of them coming to Troutdale to live in the front office of the gas station, now Handy Bros., venturing outside in the East Wind to use the rest rooms, their only bathroom facility.

Service stations loomed large in their lives. Ike said he met June at the old Ivy Service Station in Gresham. "I knew right then that she was the girl for me," he said.

In 1943, Ike Handy worked two jobs, running his station and at what is now Reynolds Metals. June ran the station when he was at work. Some days, he said, he'd sell only seven gallons of gas. As things began to pick up he hired Dick Anderson, who spent the rest of his working life at Handy's retiring only a few years ago.

Ike remembered the dedication of the highway that is now Interstate 84, of evenings square dancing in Troutdale City Hall and camping and hunting trips with Troutdale friends.

His story that he was robbed only once, by a fellow who stuck a gun in his belly, was followed by a quite different experience related after the meeting by Mike Morrow. Morrow, who owned the station at Fairview on the road to Blue Lake, said he was never robbed, but was burglarized more than 50 times. "I'd have been better off in the glass business," he said.

The Handy interview tape will be available for sale soon at a price of \$15. You may reserve one by calling the historical society office at 503-661-2164.

Harlow Creek in Name Game

The Oregon Geographic Names Board began consideration this month of a proposal from Val Lantz of the City of Troutdale to name the stream behind the Harlow House, Harlow Creek.

Lantz explained to the board that the creek --as a real flowing creek -- only came into existence recently when Strawberry Meadows subdivision was built on the "Harlow Forty" above. Water running from the subdivision, the former Bob and Louise Dix farm, comes down the canyon and descends a small water fall before beginning a meandering course through the wetlands that are the former John Harlow trout ponds. The creek runs to the corner of the Harlow House parking lot, then entered culvert passing under the parking lot and the Historic Columbia River Highway to Beaver Creek.

Harlow Creek honors Capt. John Harlow who pieced together the properties along the Sandy River for his farm. Harlow established trout ponds at the base of the Sandy River cliffs. The ponds were fed by water seeping out of the Troutdale formation, a rock and sand layer. Because his farm was in a poetic "dale" and because he first raised trout, Captain Harlow named his farm Troutdale. When he bullied the railroad into establishing a depot nearby, the depot was also named Troutdale.

At the Harlow House, our volunteers like to tell people that we are happy he first chose to raise trout. Later Capt. Harlow took up raising carp. That name is not so euphonious.

At its interim meeting in April, the names board asked for more information about Captain Harlow and for approval by the Multnomah County Commission. With that information in hand, the board will likely act on Harlow Creek at its summer meeting in June. Once that is done, the recommendation goes to the national names organization where it is officially applied to an index.

Sharon Nesbit, historian, is a member of the names board and will speak in behalf of the petition in June.

Harlow House Happenings

The Harlow House and barn were prominent parts of a television news magazine show on Troutdale called Northwest Living, Channel 26 that aired in mid-April.

Reporters for the show explored Troutdale spending considerable time at the Harlow House visiting with Sharon Nesbit, moving on to Tad's, McMenamins, downtown Troutdale and the factory outlets.

Our contribution to the show as a historical society, was considerably more than might be apparent at first glance. The photographer for the program visited the barn and was delighted to find a treasure of historic photos of the smelt run and others from our time line right there on the walls. He filmed those pictures to interject throughout the program, giving Troutdale a true historic flavor.

This is not the first time that television people have found our exhibits useful for that purpose. It never occurred to us at the time we built our exhibits that they would be used in such a way, but every time they 'shoot' one of our pictures, they help us tell Troutdale's history.

The Harlow House also had visitors from the First Baptist Church in Hood River. A group of ladies stopped by after lunching at Edgefield and admired the egg cups and china.

We thought Doneva Shepard had a lot of egg cups, but first time Harlow House visitor-Diane Plumridge of SE Portland stopped by and admitted that she has over 500! Wow!

33rd Ice Cream Social June 2nd and 3rd

Mark your calendars for our next Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social! We are in need of volunteers for the following duties:

- *Serving Ice Cream
- *Scooping Ice Cream
- *Collecting Money
- *Planning Activities for Kids
- *Signage before the event (2 weeks before)
- *Taking down signs on the 4th.

If you are interested, please call Laura at (503) 661-2164.

FREE FOR THE TAKING

We are getting rid of the kitchen range in the back kitchen at the Harlow House and will give it free to anyone who can haul it away. It works OK, but one surface burner is out. Call 503-661-2164.

GIFTS TO THS

Thank you for your support!

Director's Club

Ray and Karen Davenport
Jean and Jerry Hybskmann
Beverly and Donald Jones
Hudson Lasher
Bob and Mona Mitchoff
Herb and Mary Jean Mohn
David Ripma
Frank and Evelyn Schmidt
Doneva Shepard

Barn Fund

Jo and Vaden Callister

Endowment Fund

Jack and Roberta Burns

Lewis & Clark Exhibit

Marie Stone

WANTED:

A Honey-do man/woman, or possibly two, for little tasks weekly around the Harlow House and barn. Light bulb changing, trash dumping, door-checking, mouse fighting specialties are needed in our Harlow House museum and in our barn. Since it's a volunteer job, we don't care if we have one or two people, the more the merrier.

Job qualities: a self-starter who sees a task and deals with it, willing to read a list tacked to the refrigerator, agile enough for light ladder work, and affable enough to be bossed by a host of women who previously called all these tasks "Bob-Jobs" in honor of Bob Strebin, who previously held the position and resigned this spring.

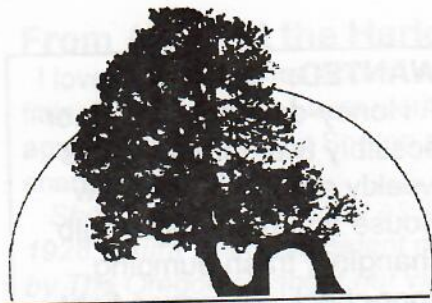
THANK YOU!

Thank you to April Harlow House Hosts: Adrienne Clausen, Florence Baker, Carli Walker and Sharon Nesbit. If you would like more information on volunteering for THS, please call Laura at (503) 661-2164. Volunteer and bring a friend or your kid (young or old!).

A visitor to Troutdale in April has asked for information about Murel Walker, a woman who worked at the Troutdale Rail depot during the war years. Anyone who might remember her is invited to call Sharon Nesbit, 503-665-0423.

Community Gathers to Plan for Lewis & Clark Bicentennial

Director Laura Newton was pleased to see so many members of the community come out to begin planning for the 200 year commemoration of the Corps of Discovery on April 19 at Edgefield. This area has a unique place in Lewis & Clark history, and the group concurred that some goals and objectives need to be set, as well as a mission statement. The group will gather again on May 17th to have a more in-depth discussion. Want to be involved? Call (503) 661-2164.



**BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TROUTDALE, OR
PERMIT No. 5**

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

**Welcome
New Members**

Doneva Shepard
Sally Madsen
Dawn Hudson
Melissa Schwitzer
Herb and Mary Jean Mohn
Camellia Vistica
Arlene Marble

Troutdale Historical Society

Mailing Address

104 S.E. Kibling Street
Troutdale, OR 97060
(503) 661-2164
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

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

Renewing members!

Tom and Cecilia Pavlik, Lucille Talbert, William Ferguson, Loretta Rice, Helen and Bruce Towsley, William and Louise Jackson, Henri and Carolyn Taylor, Birdell Eliason, Len Otto and Cheryl Ragan, Jo and Vaden Callister, Beverly and Donald Jones, Janet Rhodes, Delta Klinski, Dale and Betty Baldwin, Roy and Nancy Hoover, Marilyn Howell, Truly Wright, Mike and Pauline Morrow, Robert Wenzel, Donald and Charlotte Warman, Bob and Mona Mitchoff, Beverly and Donald Jones, Ray and Karen Davenport, David Ripma, Kris and John Fappas, Heather Mitchoff and Dan DeGraw, Laura and Lloyd Anson, Penny Balch, Barb and Nick Welsh, Herb and Clover Nasmyth, Diane, Doug & Carli Walker, Dorothy Evans, Shirley Anderson, Floyd and Josie Splawn, Merlyn Troska, Vera Rueck, Rosemarie Cummins, Mike and Margaret Rice, June Jones, David G. Underhill, Walt Balmer, Mary Lou and Lee Johnson, Joyce and Gary Henke, Leona Balch, Frank and Evelyn Schmidt, Theodore and Velma Norma, Hudson Lasher, Carol Jones, Bill and Judy McGinnis, Vera Sehorn Grasser, Gloria Ladum, Mary McDonnell, Lorraine Bliven

Thank you!