

# BYGONE TIMES

Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May 2002

## Events and Exhibits

### Spring Trek

Sat, May 18

Leaving the Harlow House at 8:00 am

### Cemetery Tour

Sun, May 19

Leaving the Harlow House at 1:30 pm

### Depot Rail Museum's

#### Grand Re-Opening

Wed, May 29, 5-7 pm

### Ice Cream Social

Sat & Sun, June 1-2

Glenn Otto Park

### Lewis & Clark Auction & Dinner

Sat, July 21

### Harvest Faire

#### CHANGE OF DATE

Sat & Sun, Sept 21-22

## Volunteers

Florence Baker

Mario Ayala

Dale & Betty Baldwin

Scott & Eileen

Cunningham

Ruth Westerinen

The Lawry Family

(Jeff, Jerry, Laura)

Adrienne Clausen

Vivian Boelke

Betty Kaufman

Watch next month for your membership cards & a full page of thanks to our new & renewing members and donors!

## Laura Newton Charged, Sentenced on March 22, 2002

Dear Members:

We promised, as soon as legal issues were settled, to give you an accounting of the events that led to the theft from our historical society of nearly \$15,000. On March 22, our former director Laura Newton was convicted in Multnomah County Circuit Court of two counts of first-degree theft, sentenced to two year's probation, 45 days in a work release center, and ordered to pay our society \$12,055.92 at a minimum rate of \$150 a month beginning May 1. Probation will continue until the debt is repaid.

Present in court were President David Ripma, board member Scott Cunningham, historian Sharon Nesbit, and former treasurer Penny Balch. President Ripma made a statement to the court and to Judge Jean Kerr Maurer describing our historical society and talking about how we earned our money—"dog dollars," he called them, "because like dog years, they required more than ordinary effort to earn them." Scott Cunningham told the judge, "To be

undercut like that is just devastating." Penny Balch provided a detailed letter outlining the deliberate acts that Newton engaged in to steal the funds.

Newton made a statement admitting the crimes, accepting sole responsibility for the acts and in a post-court session, acknowledged that some signatures on checks were not those of the signers. She gave no reason for her actions.

While our loss is closer to \$15,000 because of cash taken, the \$12,000 specified in the charges were extra paychecks Newton wrote to herself. The process required thought and deliberate action and involved circulating checks among different signers so they would not be aware of the number, changing without our knowledge our agreement with our payroll company, and failing to follow through on other procedures with bank statements and reports that might have revealed the activity.

Naturally, our board of directors has studied and is adopting processes that will

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All Aboard for the  
34th Annual  
Ice Cream Social  
June 1&2, 10a-4p  
Glenn Otto Park

Thanks again to Milt & Terry Belnap and Jean Holman for all their work on Ice Cream Social! It's a lot of work planning our events, and these folks could use your help. They need folks to set up, tear down, clean strawberries, take money, and more...If you can lend a hand on either day, please call the THS office at (503) 661-2680. ❖

## 3 Great Events in May!

### May 18 Spring Trek:

#### On the Trail of Lewis & Clark!

When you get your newsletter, we will likely have a few seats left for our trek to Astoria—Fort Clatsop and the pest house—on Saturday, May 18. The final deadline to make our lunch reservations—and you won't want to miss lunch at the Astoria Seafood School—is May 10, so please call Trek Leader Sharon Nesbit to see if we can make room for you. Her direct phone number is (503)665-0423. We take off at 8 a.m. from the Harlow House to drive to Knappton Cove on the Washington shore,

*(Continued on page 3)*



## ~Tidbits~Tidbits~Tidbits~Tidbits~

**Mary Wright Photos:** Our first round of requests for an \$8,000 grant to create a traveling exhibit of Mary Wright photographs has been turned down by three charitable agencies. We are still looking for the money to launch this spectacular series of lovely hometown photos by the talented Mary. Her daughter, Lorraine Scott, is leading the effort along with an assortment of Wright relatives.

### Lewis & Clark Gala Dinner & Auction:

The idea behind our July 27 dinner and auction is to raise enough money to get a start on a \$205,000 Lewis and Clark exhibit. If you would like to attend and feel you can't afford it, you can still play a part. We are in need of items to auction and Phyllis Thiemann needs help with serving, greeting and other work during the auction. Contact the Harlow House to help out.

Proceeds from the auction will be used to fund our exhibit, a possible visit by Corps of Discovery II, the construction of a Native American canoe, and a special children's book, "Q is for Quick-sand."

**Paula Goldie:** Thanks for creating a name and address file for use by the Development Committee in soliciting L&C Auction donations!

**Doneva Shepard:** Thanks to Doneva, who has been searching the internet to provide research background for Sharon Nesbit, who has been writing a Troutdale history chapter on local pioneers.

**Honoring Capt John Harlow:** Following a recommendation from the Oregon Board of Geographic

Names, the U.S. Board on Geographic Names applied the name "Harlow Creek" to the stream behind the Harlow House.

**Web Update:** Former Outlook editor, now with the Sandy Post, Lloyd Woods has volunteered to rebuild and reorganize our society's web page.

**Busy Bees at THS:** A recent Saturday found Jeff, Jerry and Laura Lawry cleaning the Depot from top to bottom in preparation for the grand opening on May 29. The same Saturday, Scott and Eileen Cunningham were hosting in the Harlow House and working on a mailing for the summer auction. Jean Holman was there to organize her vendors and crafts people for Ice Cream Social, and Sharon Nesbit was working in the photo collection, hunting more local pictures requested by McMenamins Edgefield.

**New Computer:** David Ripma saw to it that we received a new to us, used computer, when our old one in the Harlow office died. Thanks!

### Wish List:

A garage *vacuum* for the barn to do quick clean ups—and save dragging the one we have back and forth between buildings. The Harlow House's *natural gas water heater* seems to have died after 20 years of service. We don't need a big one, but we could sure use a small one. We have 3 buildings in need of *monthly cleanings* and Mona Mitchoff who has been doing it at no charge, is recovering from surgery. Would you care to adopt one for a once-a-month once-over? To help with any (or all?!) of these needs, call the Harlow House: (503) 661-2164. ❖

## Corbett Fire Dept

On June 1, the first day of our Ice Cream Social, from 8 a.m. to noon, the Corbett Fire Department hosts an "old fashioned firehouse breakfast" with car clubs touring the Historic Columbia River Highway. Everyone is invited for a firehouse breakfast, to observe and ride on firefighting equipment, to view old cars, see Sparky the fire dog, get balloons for kids of all ages, and to visit the fire station at 36930 Historic Columbia River Highway. At approximately 9:30 a.m. antique fire engines will meet the old cars at Lewis and Clark Park (Exit 18 on I-84) and escort them to the Fire Station. Proceeds from the breakfast fund the Ferd Riehl Scholarship given annually to a graduating high school senior to study Fire Science in college. Riehl was a pioneer member of the department, volunteering from 1949 until his retirement in 1995. Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$2.50 for children 10 and younger. As an additional feature, individuals can stop at the Glenn Otto Park in Troutdale and an Ice Cream Social to benefit the Troutdale Historical Society. ❖

### DUES REMINDER...

If you haven't paid your dues, this is a reminder that they're due. It will save us a few cents and a lot of effort in printing another reminder—and you will have our thanks—if you could please send your dues, name, address, & phone number, to the address below. Thanks!

Individual: \$12 Couple: \$20

Family: \$15

Director's Club Individual: \$50

Director's Club Couple: \$75

**Troutdale Historical Society**

104 SE Kibling St

Troutdale OR 97060





## Newton...

(Continued from page 1)

avoid such an event in the future. Members Kay Struckman, Marlene Burns and Penny Balch have offered techniques and methods to safeguard our funds. All processes are necessarily more cumbersome and time consuming and dependent on volunteers finding time to do the tasks. Checks may take more time to clear. We apologize for that and assure you that if you have concerns, call the Harlow House and leave a message.

The disadvantage of the settlement is that it leaves us without a lump sum to use in hiring another full-time employee. Dawne Morse has agreed to work for us half time for a limited time until we can find a solution.

The response of our members in this crisis has been the best part of this awful experience. Our members and board members have contributed many hours to make up the difference. We thank you for your understanding and your generosity in keeping us afloat. In December, in the depths of the event, we were operating in the red. We are solvent now, though not rich, and will continue to meet our obligations and try to recover.

David Ripma  
THS President

### OOOOPS!

If you have the date of this fall's Harvest Faire tattooed on one of your biceps, do what you can to have it removed because a miscommunication resulted in confusion over the date. *The Harvest Faire is Sept 21-22*, the third weekend in September. Please plan accordingly. Many thanks to Sam Davis, Troutdale City Parks, for catching this before it got away from us.

## More on May Events

(Continued from page 1)

an old quarantine hospital and pest house preserved as a museum and, just a short walk away, a Lewis and Clark campsite on the river bank. After lunch, we make an afternoon visit to Fort Clatsop, where the explorers shivered away a cold and hungry winter. Total price for the entire Trek—luxury bus, all admissions, lunch, and tips for driver and lunch staff—is \$80 (\$70 for members!).



### May 19 Bus Trip: Stories in Stone with Stan Clarke

Our annual cemetery tour -- Stories in Stone -- with cemetery historians Stan Clarke and Jan Healy departs the Harlow House by bus at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 19 -- with trips to both Portland Memorial and Lone Fir cemeteries. This last program of the year takes us to the grave site of Capt. John Harlow and his family as well as a host of other Portland pioneers. Stan will arrange two tour guides for Portland Memorial with one to lead those who have problems with steps. "We will see Tiffany stained glass, the Pieta, Chinese vases and more," he promises. We will likely be back in Troutdale about 5:30 p.m. Doneva Shepard is printing up some material on the symbolism in grave markers to take along, and Stan and Jan will have a copy of their new cemetery guide to Oregon. We take up a collection to help

pay for the bus and we've been known to stop for a soft drink or ice cream. We also have a lot of fun learning our history in these remarkable sites. We'll bring along an ice cream social volunteer schedule so you can sign up for June 1 or 2nd.

### May 29 at the Depot ALL ABOARD!

You are invited to attend the unveiling of an exciting new exhibit at the Grand Re-Opening of the Depot Rail Museum, May 29 from 5 to 7

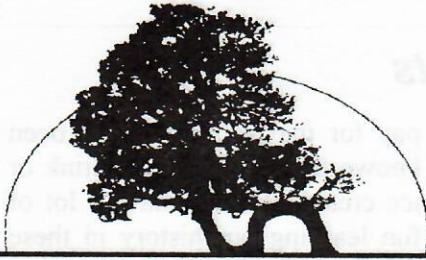


p.m. at 473 E Historic Columbia River Hwy.

A fresh approach to interpretation at the Depot, the new exhibit includes life-sized patrons (*Depot People*) and the renovation of the Depot's waiting area. Whimsically lifelike and decorated in the style of the early 1900s, the exhibit more closely portrays the hustle and bustle of a small town train depot and the activities surrounding operation of the railroad.

The exhibit was created entirely by the father-son team of Jerry and Jeff Lawry. Jerry Lawry, a retired retail display designer, created the *Depot People*, the sponsorship of which will be placed for auction at the Grand Re-Opening celebration. Jeff Lawry, our "Depot Conductor", faithful THS volunteer and Depot Rail Museum host, was inspired to create the new presentation of rail related artifacts after reading the letters of Newt Parsons, early 20<sup>th</sup>-century station master. ❖





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

**Troutdale Historical Society**  
104 S.E. Kibling Street  
Troutdale, OR 97060  
Phone: (503) 661-2164  
Fax: (503) 674-2995

**Helen Wand**  
4503 SE Chase Rd  
Gresham OR 97080

**Inside THS**  
David Ripma, Board President  
Dawne Morse, Interim Director  
Mary Bryson, Curator  
Sharon Nesbit, Historian  
Doneva Shepard, Photo Librarian

Change Service Requested

<b>Harlow House &amp; Barn</b>	<b>Depot Rail Museum</b>
726 E. Historic Columbia River Highway	473 E. Historic Columbia River Highway
Phone: (503) 661-2164 HOURS: Saturdays & Sundays, 1-4	Phone: (503) 661-2164 HOURS: W-F 12-6; Sat 10-6; Sun 1-4

***In Memory...***

Our condolences to members Frank and Jeanne Driver whose son, Frank, died recently in San Carlos, Mexico.

Bennie Sandiforth, brother of Florence Baker, died in January. Florence made a contribution in his memory to Troutdale Historical Society because Bennie truly enjoyed attending our Harvest Faire and Ice Cream Social. ❖

*A membership renewal form came in noting a donation by credit card for \$575.00, but the name was listed as "on file"...please call (503)661-2164 if you are the generous donor. Thanks!*

***Summer Help Greatly Needed...***

Can you help us meet our great need for summer volunteers at the Harlow House?

In order to increase museum space, decrease the weight of office furniture on the Harlow House, and staff our gift shop, we hope to move our historical society offices into the Rail Depot by June 1. As part of our belt-tightening process with limited staff time, we felt we could use a half-time employee more effectively in one spot, running the Depot, gift shop, and office, all at the same time.

While we did not get the Murdock grant to remodel the depot interior, but Dawne Morse and volunteer Jeff Lawry believe we can make the offices habitable with a coat of paint and some

clean up. Can you help get the building ready with paint, window washing and TLC?

The move leaves us with the Harlow House to run this summer with volunteers. Ordinarily the Harlow House is open Wednesday through Sunday in the summer. The board of directors has made a painful decision that if we do not have the volunteers to run the Harlow House during the week, we will reduce museum hours at the house and barn to weekends only, Saturday and Sunday afternoons, 1 to 4 p.m.

If you would like to volunteer for a regular stint in the Harlow House, please let us know. Adrienne Clausen, our volunteer coordinator, can be reached at (503) 663-0895. ❖