



BYGONE TIMES

Newsletter of the Troutdale Historical Society

October 2003

Coming up at THS

Oct. Program:

Columbus Day Remembered
Sun. Oct. 19 at 2 p.m.
Troutdale City Hall

Bring your photos and memories of the 1962 Columbus Day Storm.

Program will be videotaped.

Nov. Program:

Sun. Nov. 16 at 2 p.m.
Troutdale City Hall

Lewis & Clark Program and 1905 Expo slide show presented by Richard H. Engeman

Christmas Open House

Sat. Dec 6
12-4 p.m.

Harlow House

A wonderful family day at the Troutdale museums

Jan. Program:

Sun. Jan. 18 2 at p.m.
Troutdale City Hall

Feb. Program:

Annual Membership Meeting

Sun. Feb. 15



Photo Credit: Pacific NW Bell by Deane Bond

Columbus Day Storm Remembered

The Columbus Day storm occurred on October 12, 1962. According to Ellis Lucia in his book, 'The Big Blow', winds reached 116 mph in the Portland area. This storm was declared the nation's worst natural disaster of 1962 by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. Where were you that day? Come and join us as we share our memories and bring your own stories, newspaper clippings and photos and film clips. Len Otto will moderate and the program will be videotaped for our archives. Troutdale City Hall Council Chambers, Sunday October 19 at 2 p.m.

Lewis & Clark Program and Slide Show

Presented By Richard H. Engeman



Mr. Richard Engeman, Public Historian for the Oregon Historical Society will be presenting this program for our November meeting. Mr. Engeman is not only an excellent speaker, but a scholar and researcher regarding the Lewis and Clark Expedition. He plans to show slides of the World's Fair and Lewis & Clark Expedition Centennial Festival held in Oregon in 1905. Troutdale City Hall Chambers, Sunday November 16 at 2 p.m.

Note about Troutdale School Reunion:

Several people have called asking about the reunion. The program committee planned a school history tour/trek for September and the Columbus Day Storm Remembered for October's program....in lieu of the usual reunion. The good news is that many of the alumni are planning to attend the October meeting and join in the sharing of memories of the "Big Blow". Be sure and tell Helen Wand or Doneva Shepard your ideas for next year's programs... including a school reunion.



Troutdale School

Homemade Chili and Pies Enjoyed

Harvest Faire was enjoyed by many. Special treats included Sadie Riley's homemade chili and the wonderful pies baked by our members. Thanks to all of you excellent bakers. The event raised just under \$2,000 for the ongoing work of the society. Thanks to our volunteers: Mona Mitchoff, Dorothy Sturges, Jean Holman, Sadie Riley and her grandson Heath, Florence Baker, Heather Mitchoff, Jan DeGraw, Mary Bryson, Jan Vandiver, Helen Wand, Donna McCollister, Dorothy Kerslake, Judy Norby, Juanita Espanel, Jeannie Driver, Penny Balch, Leona Balch, Frieda Ryland, Ed & Phyllis Thiemann, Mario Ayala, Mike Dubesa, David Ripma, Bob Mitchoff, Gary Holman, Kris & John Fappas, Dan DeGraw, David Maydew, Tiffany, Zoey & Emily Calcagno & Boy Scout Troup 174. Special appreciation to Michelle & Co. of the Troutdale City Parks Dept.

We had a very heartening steady stream of visitors at the Harlow House and Depot Rail Museum. Thank you to hosts Ola June, Sharon Nesbit & Sheryl Maydew.



Director's Club Picnic By Penny Balch

At the annual Director's Club picnic held September 20th, the weather was fine, the barbecue was delicious and the company enjoyable. David Ripma and Mario Ayala graciously hosted the party in their backyard at Sweetbrier. David presented Sheryl Maydew with a bouquet of flowers in appreciation for all her hard work this year.

Sheryl brought four generations of family, including her grandson Levi and granddaughters Heather, Nicole and Jaylyn. Also showing their support were Jean Holman, Ed and Phyllis Thiemann, Scott and Eileen Cunningham, Marge and Ed Schmunk, Mary Bryson, Kay Struckman, Herb and Mary Jean Mohn, Florence Baker, Dorothy Sturges, Pat Smith and friend Clara, Bonnie Irwin, Betty and Harvey Wieprecht, and Dick and Paula Goldie.

Not many people know that Sheryl stepped in as volunteer Director when the society faced yet another financial crisis earlier this year. As the funds for a paid Director diminished, the Board had a difficult decision to make. Sheryl eased our minds when she said that she would be willing to take on that position as a volunteer and stay until we found stable funding for a paid full-time Director.

Sheryl acknowledges our gratitude modestly. She keeps our group going by organizing volunteers, keeping the Depot open, answering an unending list of questions, setting up a beautiful research area, and the list goes on. Whatever the project, Sheryl jumps in with both feet and works on it until it is done. She does it all with a great sense of humor. If you have spent five minutes with Sheryl, you know she is passionate about the society and cares deeply about its future.

If you would like to become part of the Director's, you can do so by signing up for the Director's Club Membership at the next renewal.



Pictures from the historic school tour taken Sept. 27, 2003 by Doneva Shepard. Chuck Rollins lead the tour. There were 32 people on the bus. We learned about the old schools and school sites and Chuck was a "most entertaining/delightful fellow". It turns out that Chuck was also very familiar with the flora and fauna of the area and shared this knowledge, too. The group dined at the park in Latourell on box lunches prepared by Mom's Garden Bakery & Café.

Handy work needed at the Harlow House: Is there a wooden screen door expert out there who could take down the Harlow House's vintage screen door, replace the screen and have it ready for next summer? And, while we're messing around the front door, the chintzy little lock in our glass-fronted display case where our museum information is posted, somehow got gummed up, the key is stuck in it, and kids or someone, keeps messing with it. It is frequently found open and sonner or later will get busted. Anyone who can tinker with that? Call Sheryl Maydew at the office, 503-661-2154.

Among those who hurried out to the Harlow House during Harvest Faire to see the new school exhibit were relatives of retired Troutdale teacher Sally Lindholm, whom, they say is living in Idaho, still going strong and still in charge. Lindholm taught at Troutdale in the 1960s and 1970s, and earlier. She was part of a 'gang' of excellent teachers that included Crystal Bayley and the late Camille Crumb.

Don't miss the school day exhibit at the Harlow House. In addition to our large collection of school photos, there is a charming pencil box, shaped like a giant pencil from the Troutdale General Store, a set of 'good conduct' medals, report cards of people you know, and many vintage school books. Harlow House is open Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m., and if you should find it closed, it's because we do not yet have enough one-day-a-month volunteers to open it.

If you can give three hours, one day a month, call the office, 503-661-2154. And thanks to those who have given us a day, Florence Baker, Ola June, Sharon Nesbit, Tannis Richard, Cheryl Elliott, Betty Kaufman. It only takes 8 and we have the month covered.

Marie Stone who always cooked up fantastic pies at our pie sale and never said "no" to a round of berry cleaning at ice cream social is moving to Eagle, Idaho, to be closer to her children. She and her late husband, Bill, lived in Fairview all their married life. Bill was a staunch laborer on the museum barn, and in fact, was the first guy to get an on-the-job injury there, which earned him high honors in a crew called the "Band-Aid Squad."

Nancy Cox, wife of the late Sam Cox, and a longtime member of our society, celebrated her 80th birthday on Sept. 3. She also showed up at Harvest Faire to eat her share of chili and homemade pie.

OHS Museum Opening

By Penny Balch

I do not know if the new Oregon Historical Society's new exhibit, "Oregon A to Z", was inspired by the 1900 Alphabet Chair, but the chair is representative of the display. On the chair, each letter of the alphabet has different background graphics and colorful combinations. In the exhibit, bits and pieces, artifacts and photographs from 63 historical institutions across Oregon are brought together. They are sorted alphabetically.

If you stand on the corner of SW Jefferson and Park streets, in the window, you will see the Troutdale Historical Society's contribution - the boat we had in our Smelt exhibit. We also included the nets for catching the osmeridae and a coffee barrel. Pictures of the Sandy River during a run of the silver fish are contained in one of the various notebooks.

Some of the other local artifacts include a patchwork pillow made of leather postcards from the Friends of Zimmerman House. This is under "C" for cushion. One of the most intriguing items is a jumpsuit in a black and white (signed) Picasso pattern from White Stag. Look for this gem under "M" for manufacturing. In the last issue, we mentioned that one item under "S" was scales. Well take a close look, and you will find a fish scale from THS. There is truly something for everyone in this exhibit.

Finance Committee

At the September board meeting the directors established a finance committee. Thanks to the following members who have agreed to serve on this committee. Tom Graves, Marlene Burns, Mona Mitchoff, David Ripma, Scott Cunningham, Sharon Nesbit and Sheryl Maydew. This committee will meet and develop the 2004 budget to present to the board. In addition, they will work their way through pertinent issues and make recommendations to the board.

State of the Society

It takes approximately \$17,500 per year to operate the society, if we have all volunteers. As of October 1, 2003 we have approximately \$18,000 in our operating account and \$27,000 in our Quicksand & Condors exhibit fund. We also have a \$20,000 grant to draw on for the exhibit.

Please take a moment to look at the list of names on the back page — volunteers who serve on the board and staff. Because of these folks, we are strong and doing a fine job accomplishing our mission. With the financial support of our members and so many dedicated volunteers — Troutdale's history is in good hands.

Thank You...to Keith Graves for fixing our computer problems....to the Lawrys who stopped by the Depot and offered to attach the Depot People names and to clean the Depot museum once a month, to Tom Graves and David Ripma for moving the smelt boat to OHS, to the Tuesday Ladies for creating a wonderful school exhibit ... and to Sharon Nesbit for her constant willingness to share her knowledge and help us out every time we ask.



Celery Capitol of The World

By Sharon Nesbit

Jim Long, who writes a book called Oregon Firsts, got in touch with our historical society recently about two Troutdale “firsts,” Capt. John Harlow and his introduction of the carp to the ponds at Troutdale, and our reputation as the Celery Capitol of the World. For those who don’t know about that celebrated title, here’s a short piece about it.

On Aug. 30, 1922, the Portland Telegram reported that H.C. McGinnis of Troutdale received a silver loving cup through the mail, the world’s championship trophy in the 1922 Celery King Contest, which was held in Indianapolis, Ind. The cup was given by the Market Growers Journal of Louisville, KY, and was won by the Troutdale man in competition with celery growers from many regions. The trophy, (which is in the possession of the Troutdale Historical Society) is about 2 feet high and was valued then at \$100.



A 1927 Gresham Outlook article went on to say that McGinnis won the prize three years running and then retired from competition, satisfied that he had established his credentials, and Troutdale’s, as prime celery growers. It was about this time that Troutdale declared itself the Celery Capitol of the World. In 1927, the McGinnis operation sold celery for \$2.75 a crate, shipped out of Troutdale to markets on the East Coast.

Troutdale continued to grow celery in the “celery gardens” — for some reason the McGinnises did not call them fields — until shortly before W.W.II when the labor force declined and there was no one to help with the heavy and cumbersome bleaching boards that were set up along the stalks to bleach them white. In those days, white celery was considered superior. The celery gardens are now covered with truck stops and fast food joints on the frontage road along I-84 at Troutdale.

In Memory...

Bonita Jenkins died in September, the result of complications from a fall. She was 88 and a driving force to the day she fell, in the Fairview Rockwood Wilkes Historical Society, where she was the organization’s first and only treasurer. She was also a member of Troutdale Historical Society and never failed to provide potted plants and iris for our ice cream social plant sale. Her particular favorite project was Fairview’s Heslin House and memorials in her memory are requested for that cause.

Also deceased is William L. Ferguson, 89, who died in Beaverton. Ferguson, a family friend of Bill and Sharon Nesbit, moved to the Portland area in the late 1960s and soon after bought a membership in the Troutdale Historical Society, because, he told people, “He liked to flash the membership card.” He remained a constant member until last year and joined in several of our Troutdale treks, including our first overnight jaunt to Baker City. It was said of Bill at his memorial service, “That he had no idea he was pushing 90”

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 Penny Balch, Grant Research
 Marlene Burns, Accounting


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

**Non Profit
 Presorted
 Standard Mail**
**Troutdale, OR
 Permit No. 5**

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