



BYGONE TIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE "OLD" NORTH SIDE OF TROUTDALE by Sharon Nesbit



Sheryl Maydew - Sam Cox Bldg, 2003

Max and Sheryl Maydew, builders of Troutdale's north side business development which opened in 1995, sat down recently with Sharon Nesbit of the Troutdale Historical Society for an interview. The video was shot in their home state of Arizona by Sue Landreth and focused on events that led up to changing downtown Troutdale in 1995.

The two laughed at a recent report from Sheryl's son that a woman posted a comment on the Internet saying that someone needed to do something about the buildings on Troutdale's north side because they needed painting and looked old. Which, of course, was the whole point. The Maydew development was built to look as if it was always there.

Both Maydews were on city committees when Troutdale began to look at developing the city's



1994/1995 Downtown Troutdale



c1996 Downtown Troutdale

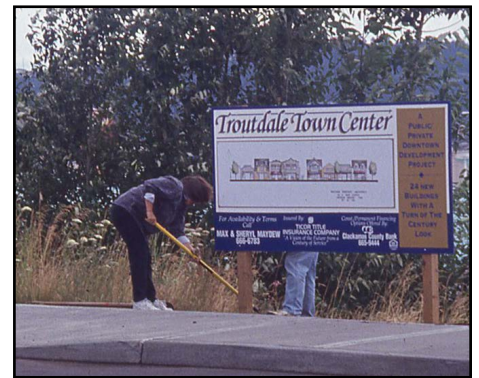
north side. From its inception, Troutdale was always a one-sided main street with buildings only on the south side of the highway. The north side was all railroad right of way. Ultimately, the railroad decided to sell a considerable strip on the north side of the Columbia River Highway and it was purchased by Don Bennett, who then owned and operated a woodworking plant in the old Bissinger Wool Pullery, which was north of the railroad tracks. (The Bissinger Water Tower still stands.)

A feud developed between Bennett and City of Troutdale authorities and escalated to the point that city building permits and other issues related to the Bissinger plant were served by armed police officers. Several plans for the north side came and went, including a proposed factory outlet which was later built at its current location. Another developer wanted to buy surplus trailer houses and line them up along the north side to rent as businesses. A start on one project petered out, leaving only some concrete foundations and a hole so deep that a Buick nosed over the bank and upended in the excavation.

Max Maydew had spent several years on the planning commission. Sheryl served on city committees including downtown development. The two owned and developed the Sun Ridge subdivision which overlooks Sunrise Park, though the park was then a long way off.

Lacking deep pockets, they worked out a plan to purchase the downtown north side and develop it as a business subdivision, selling lots to people who wanted to build business buildings subject to new design standards that fit Troutdale's historic character.

Continue on page 2



Troutdale Town Center Building Rendering



1994 North side Downtown Troutdale

THE "OLD" NORTH SIDE OF TROUTDALE continued from page 1

"We went all over looking at old towns," said Max Maydew, "Cripple Creek and all over Southern Oregon."

The mechanics of the plan called for an all new downtown development plan with parking supplemented by the city of Troutdale. Mayor Paul Thalhofer admitted he stuck his neck out on the parking, saying he was not sure then that it was legal, but it had to be done to improve the town. Later, an addition to the development by Rip Caswell resulted in more than 20 lots, many only 19 feet wide.

"We sold most of the lots to friends and people in town who wanted to build their own businesses," Sheryl remembered. "In the end we had just five left." But they had taken out a mortgage on their home to make it work and they had to develop those lots.

Though the Maydews had built only houses and never a commercial building, they set to work on the first of the five leftover lots, just the two of them. Never having built a commercial building, they could not afford to hire the work done. Sheryl stood on the roof guiding trusses into place. Max worked up a rig powered by drill that hauled sheeting to the top floor.

The pair did so many jury-rigged gadgets that people tended to drop by to see what the Maydews were up to next. Once they had a handle on it, they completed all the buildings and in the winter of 1995 the first business, Celebrate Me Home, opened on a revitalized main street centered on the Historic Columbia River Highway.

Later, one building owner defaulted, and the Maydews still own it. It is now leased to the City of Troutdale for city hall offices. The couple moved to Arizona about 10 years ago for health reasons.

But, as Sheryl notes, they finished up the downtown Troutdale project in time for her to go to work (for free) as director of the Troutdale Historical Society, a job she held for four years.



Celebrate Me Home opens 1997



Celebrate Me Home 2021

OHS Membership Offer

An exciting offer from the Oregon Historical Society:

For a limited time (January 1, 2022 - March 31, 2022) all new members, renewing members and Lifetime members of the Troutdale Historical Society will receive a free joint membership from the Oregon Historical Society for one year.

When you become a new member or renew your membership during this time period you will automatically become a member of OHS. If you are not interested in the OHS membership, please indicate this on your THS membership form (see last page).

Oregon Historical Society Membership offers the following:

Individual Membership \$60 value

The benefits of membership for one adult:

- UNLIMITED FREE ADMISSION to the Oregon Historical Society
- Free subscriptions to the Oregon Historical Quarterly and The Historian
- 10% Discount at the Museum Store
- Invitations to member's nights, including select exhibit openings and other public programming
- First notice on public events and lectures
- Complimentary membership in Time Travelers, a network of historical societies and museums across the country

Family/Grandparent Membership \$80 value

The same great benefits as individual membership, but for two adults and all children, grandchildren or minors who reside in the same household.



Give a gift of membership
to the
**TROUTDALE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**



President's Message

First I wish everyone a wonderful and happy 2022 and thank everyone for supporting the Troutdale Historical Society. Throughout 2021 our staff and volunteers have continued to catalog and document our historical archives. We also did a concert at the barn in August and the first ever History Hunt in September, thank you to everyone who made these possible. The City of Troutdale is finishing up the refurbishing of the Depot Railroad building. We are planning for and will be setting up the Depot displays in 2022. Other things in the works for 2022 is to reopen all of our museums to the public. Let's have a fantastic year together in 2022. Thank you again for your continued support and dedication to the Troutdale Historical Society.



Norm Thomas, President

CORRECTION

In our last newsletter article, *Keeping a History of Homes*, Marilyn Morrison corrected an error. Her grandparents worked at the office in Fairview for Sundial Ranch, not Fairview Farm.

Note from a member:

"Living in Gresham was as close as I ever got to Troutdale - but reading about Troutdale history in Sharon Nesbit's Outlook column from time to time lured me there to dine and shop and to attend THS meetings."

Troutdale folks are a warm, friendly group and THS is doing a splendid job of recording Troutdale's spectacular beginnings."

Wilma Konkell, Des Moines, WA



WINTER MUSEUM HOURS October - April

Barn Exhibit Hall

11am - 3pm, Saturday & Sunday
Closed: Monday - Friday

Harrow House

11am - 3pm Saturday & Sunday
Closed: Monday - Friday

Depot Rail Museum
TBD

Fred Meyer Rewards Card

www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards

THS gets contributions from
Fred Meyer.

Please enroll, using our non-profit #JA801.

AMAZON SMILE

Go to <http://smile.amazon.com>

Simply select

Troutdale Historical Society
as your charity.

Shop as you normally would.

THS receives a contribution from Amazon.

Another way to support

TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Pick up **BottleDrop** blue bags at the Barn Exhibit Hall. Look for the box of bags outside on the bench - Fill with redeemable empty bottles and cans and drop off at any **BottleDrop** locations. Funds will automatically be deposited and donated to THS.

Thank you for the increased interest in our BottleDrop fundraiser. With your support we have received **\$1052.00** this year from the folks who recycle their cans and bottles through **BottleDrop** using one of our labeled bags.

East County Drop off locations:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Wood Village Redemption Center | Gresham Redemption Center |
| 23345 NE Halsey Street | 1313 E Powell Blvd. |
| Wood Village, OR 97060 | Gresham, OR 97030 |

Renew your membership or
donate through our website?
Click on the links below.

[Donations](#)
[Memberships](#)

Troutdale Historical Society Board Members & Staff

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President: Norm Thomas
Vice President: Bettianne Goetz
Treasurer: Joy Beldin
Secretary: Jason Cawood

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Kelly Broomall, Jean Ice, Sharon Nesbit,
Dave Ripma, Helen Wand

Past Presidents

Erin Janssens, Bettianne Goetz,
Sharon Nesbit, Len Otto, Dave Ripma

Staff

LeAnn Stephan, Executive Director
Tracy Gibbons, Admin Assistant

372 MEMBERS OF THE TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Help us reach our goal of
500 members!

Are you a member?

Give a gift of membership to
the next generation,
friends, family or become a
member by clicking [here](#).

NEW MEMBERS

Jane Berver
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Charlotte Rubin
Sandy River Marketing, Donald DeVore
Kay Struckman
Carl & Tina Tebbens
Julia & Rich Warner
William & Barbara White

Sharon Nesbit
In Honor of
Robert, Jr & Vera Strebin

Marilee Thompson
In Honor of
Julia Warner for her dedication and
contribution to beautifying Harlow Park.

Andrea Welsh
In Honor of
Barbara Welsh

DONORS - MEMORIAL FUND

Jo Callister
In Memory of
Vaden Callister

Dr Robert & Tami Campbell
In Memory of
Ginger Harlow Allen

Joann Otto
In Memory of
Glenn & Helen Otto

DONORS - MEMORIAL FUND

Pamela Oja
In Memory of
Kaz & Helen Tamura

Len & Gloria Otto
In Memory of
William (Bill) Kitchen

Sharon Petri
In Memory of
Denny Klingbile

RENEWING MEMBERS

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Donna Burlingame
Jo Callister
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Annell Carlson
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Gresham Memorial Chapel, John Gerbish
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Sally Hicks
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Karen Hubbard
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Lynne & Mike Johnson
Karen Jordan
Dorothy Keefe
James & Cheryl Kerr
John & Mitzie Kerslake
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Paulette Kuiper & Edward Fairchild
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Gerald & Shirley Lambert
Sandy & Gary McCoy
Lee & Charline McGinnis
Andrea & Michel Mershon
Claudell Metzger
Shirley Miller
Harry Moffitt
Herb Mohn
Patricia Morron
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Joann Otto
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Sharon Petri

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Margaret & Mike Rice
Charlotte Rubin
Sandy River Marketing, Donald DeVore
Rodger Sellin
Joyce Stewart
Zelma Sutherland
Carl & Tina Tebbens
Norm & Charlene Thomas
Julia & Rich Warner
Hazel Webb
Richard Weill
William & Barbara White
Peg Willis
Steve Wright

CAPTAIN'S CIRCLE LIFETIME

Mike Alderson
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Ken and Trish Atha
Joan Benner
Judith Bergan
Kelly & Karla Broomall
Nancy Callister Buley
Jason Cawood
Ione Scott Clair
Stan Clarke
Betty Cook
Patricia Currier
Janet Ege
Charles Ellis
Georgia Erdenberger
Kyle Fritzsinger
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Deanna Maughan
Doug & Elise McGuire
Brian McMenamin
Mike & Mary Alice McMenamin
Colleen Mershon
Dwain & Sharon Munyon
Sharon Nesbit
Sadie Riley
David Ripma & Mario Ayala
Irene Simons
Robert Strebin
Kay Struckman
Marilee Thompson
Mike Weyhrich
Martha Wheeler
Kimberly Wolfer

WORKING LIKE THEY OWN THE PLACE (which they do)

Caboose Sparkles For the Holidays

Erin Janssens, Kelly Broomall, and Julia Warner spent a very cold and windy day power washing the caboose. The caboose needed some cleansing before the holiday lights could go on.

On an early Saturday morning, **Kelly Broomall** and his crew arrived at 8am to begin the day-long process of hanging the lights on the caboose; a tradition Kelly began Christmas 2018. A joyful thank you to his crew: **Troutdale Fire Station 75 - Ryan Miller, Joe Covey, and Jarred Von Schell; Tom Miller, Troutdale Home Depot; Warren Nesbit, Len Otto and Johnathon Peterson.**

Your efforts and hard work to make the caboose sparkle for the holiday season were enjoyed by the entire community.



Johnathon Peterson, Len Otto, Warren Nesbit



Kelly Broomall & Johnathon Peterson



Fire Fighters - Joe Covey (left) and Jared Von Schell (right) & Kelly Broomall

BottleDrop Fundraiser Record

We had a record breaking fundraising campaign for 2021 - an increase of \$426 from the previous year!

Margaret Rice is the driving force behind the BottleDrop Fundraising Program. Thank you **Margaret** for all the volunteer hours you have spent on this program. And thank you all who have donated bottles/cans.

Face Of An Angel Or...

This young lad attended Troutdale Grade School, a student of Mrs. Crystal Bayley. He later became a teacher at the very same school. He loves fishing and woodworking. He is a volunteer and Past President of the Troutdale Historical Society. Also, a historian who has edited

several books and edits the ByGone Times newsletter. He is currently retired and lives with his lovely wife in Boring, OR. Can you guess who this is? See page 6 for the answer.



Harlow House Hedge Trimmed Like A Pro

Volunteers of the THS Garden Crew give so much of their time and expertise to the maintenance of Harlow Park. The grounds surrounding the Harlow House and the Barn Exhibit Hall require a tremendous amount of work and untold hours to keep it looking beautiful.

One of those volunteers is **Erin Janssens**. When the long hedge that outlines the curved driveway of the Harlow House was overgrown, Erin stepped in and gave it a professional trimming. This is not her profession, but it is one of her many skills.

Please admire the beautifully trimmed hedge and ignore the brown grass... it was late September when this photo was taken.



Harlow House - September 2021

Friends in History Remembered

Harold (William, Bill) Kitchen - b. January 7, 1923; d. October 31, 2021

Bill Kitchen of Sandy, died at age 98, on Oct. 31, 2021. He and his wife, Margie, who died several months before him, were Sandy residents. Bill sought out Len Otto to help him write his life story some years ago, and the Kitchens were part of an anniversary celebration at Edgefield arriving in their vintage car. Margie worked at Edgefield as a nurse aide.

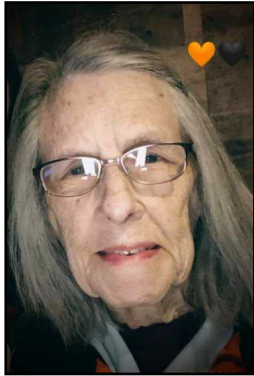
An error by the doctor resulted in the birth certificate name as William Charles Strayer Kitchen. He was called Junior or Harold after his father, Harold Robert. The error was discovered years later but by then he was known as Harold. His daughter Nancy always knew who was calling by the name they used - Harold or Junior (family/old friends), Bill (friends from his military days), William (usually the doctor).

He served honorably for the Army Airborne in the South Pacific during WWII as a cryptographer.



Harold (Bill) Kitchen

Mary Eaton - b. November 29, 1933 d. October 5, 2021



Mary Louise Eaton

Mary Eaton, 87, died Oct. 5, 2021. She retired from her job in Troutdale City Hall in 1996 after 24 years of answering the phone, figuring out water bills and other clerical stuff. A resident of Troutdale since the age of 11, her grandfather's Hensley Road home is now the well-known house decorated for every holiday by current owners Rick and Linda Paz.

Mary was the fifth employee hired by the city in 1972, population 1,230. She worked, literally, at the elbow of City Recorder Truly Wright. The two sat on wooden chairs, no ergonomics in those days, sharing a table work space.



1950 Eaton Family Christmas Card Photo
(Mary seated on the floor in plaid dress)

Their shared work area in the small basement of city hall included a roll top desk, a table where the council met, two file cabinets, one mimeograph machine, one tractor, one pickup truck, one backhoe, one IBM electric typewriter, one standard Underwood typewriter, and a jail cell with the only toilet on that floor. Truly, also the municipal judge, pointed out that she couldn't jail anybody because there would have been no toilet for city staff.

The two women kept their cars in front of city hall because they often had to go out and chase down "the boys," city workers George Phoenix, Roy Dooley, and janitor Alex Jones. There was a radio but it only worked half the time.

At Christmas, Troutdale's city hall staff joined Wood Village and Fairview employees in order to muster enough people for a Christmas party.

Mel Harmon - d. November 2020

Mel passed away November 2020 from complications due to COVID-19. His wife Milly was at his side at the time of his passing.

He supported our local history as a lifetime member of the Troutdale Historical Society.



In 1972 the building became the first THS Museum (1977 photo). It was originally built by the Willamette Valley Advent Christian Church Camp as a dormitory. It is currently the Glenn Otto Community Park caretaker's residence. The jail cell displayed at left once held law-breakers at City Hall. Fire Hose Cart #1 purchased by the city in 1907.

Face Of An Angel Or... (answer)

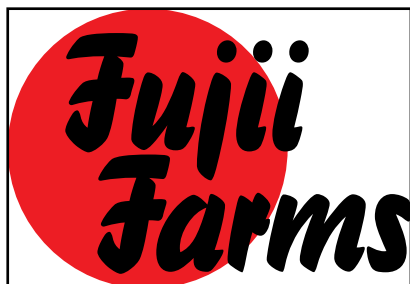


Len Otto

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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
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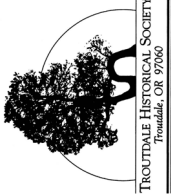
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THS is a 501 (C)3 non-profit organization.
Federal Tax ID #93-0738777.

Thank you for your support!

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

Edgefield History Night
The last Tuesday of every month (except December) the Troutdale Historical Society sponsors a speaker at McManus Edgefield Blackberry Hall, 6:30pm (doors at 5:00 p.m.) Free for all ages. Food and drink are available for purchase.



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 the 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: info@troutdalehistory.org
Website: www.troutdalehistory.org

