

# BYGONE TIMES

A Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May, 1997

Sharon Nesbit, Editor, 665-0423

## A Sunday walk & talk on the Sandy River Delta

Lewis and Clark saw the Sandy River Delta and described the river as having two mouths filled with quicksand. Some of Oregon's first settlers landed their wagons nearby. It came to be called "Thousand Acres" and local boys fished and hunted there. Smelt fans built a diversion dam there. And construction of the Reynolds Metals plant caused a lawsuit there.

This natural resource next door to Troutdale is the subject of our last historical meeting of the year, Sunday May 18, beginning with a 1 p.m. stroll on the delta (for those who want to take part) and then a 2:30 p.m. gathering at Troutdale City Hall for a talk and aerial photos of the delta, demonstrating how it has changed over the years.

Our speaker is Virginia Kelly, Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.. Kelly, who has a master's degree in landscape architecture, is planning team leader of the delta project. She will tell how the delta was formed, about Native Americans and Lewis and Clark at the site, future plans for the Delta and how people can help.

To join the walk, go to Exit 18, the Lewis and Clark State Park interchange, and circle around north of the freeway, parking at the green gate. We will walk for about an hour reconvening at Troutdale City Hall at 2:30 p.m.

Also on our agenda: Member of the year award.

## Wedding exhibit to grace social

Mona Mitchoff's steering committee set the theme for this year's ice cream social as "Love's Old Sweet Song," with an exhibit of vintage trousseau items at Harlow House.

The display, which will continue into the summer, will include wedding clothes, going-away apparel and a table set for a wedding breakfast. Committee members are looking for small items, handkerchiefs, garters, invitations and photos to display in the rear parlor. If you have such items to loan, mark them clearly with name and address

and we will use them for the duration of the exhibit. Also, Florence Baker, 665-9656, is rounding up volunteers. Beat her to the punch and volunteer now.



## Busy May CALENDAR



### Events

**Hike and talk on the Sandy River Delta-- Sun., May 18, 1 p.m. hike, 2:30 p.m. meeting:**  
Virginia Kelly, Columbia River gorge National Scenic Area, history and future of the Sandy River Delta.

**Trek, Long Beach Peninsula -- Sat. & Sun., May 31-June 1:**

Reserve a seat by calling 661-2164.

### Meetings

**Wed., May 7, 7 p.m.:**

Troutdale Historical Society board meeting, barn.

**Mon., May 12, 7 p.m.:**

Steering Committee, ice cream social and Harvest Faire, Harlow House.

**Tues., May 13, 7 p.m.:**

Barnstorm exhibit design committee, barn.

**Wed., May 21, 6:30 p.m.:**

Program committee, dinner meeting, Black Rabbit, McMenamins Edgefield.

### Special Events

**Mon., May 19, 7 p.m.:**

Harlow Host training & dessert, Harlow House.

**Thurs., May 22, 1 & 3 p.m.:**

McMenamin Edgefield anniversary, history talks, west porch by Sharon Nesbit.

### Mark Your Calendar

**Ice Cream Social, Sat. & Sun., June 14 & 15**

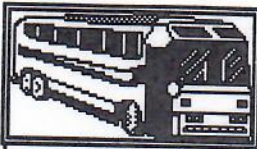
## News of our society....

Ellen Brothers announced her intention to resign as director by year-end, or sooner if a replacement is found. If you know someone interested in the job, contact an officer or board member.

If you think you'd like to host the Harlow House, but are unsure, please join us Monday night, May 19, 7 p.m., at the Harlow House for dessert and a training session for volunteers.

The same goes for our meeting committee dinner meeting on May 21. If you want to put your "two-bits worth" in, call Sharon Nesbit, 665-0423, and she'll save a place at the table.





Seats on trek to peninsula still available, call now.

## Long Beach trek May 31-June 1

The spring Trek to the Long Beach Peninsula with stops in Skamokawa, Ilwaco, Cathlamet and Kalama, May 31-June 1, has about 10 seats remaining.

This two-day event includes transportation north to Kalama for a brief coffee-antiquing stop, west on historic Highway 4 exploring Puget Island, Cathlamet and Skamokawa, overnight in Chataqua Lodge on the Long Beach Peninsula with dinner at a popular local restaurant, a Sunday morning tour of historic Oysterville, a visit to the museum at Fort Canby and the Ilwaco Heritage museum, and home through Astoria with a stop at the newly-restored Astor Column.

Cost is \$100 for those sharing a room, \$125 for those who want a single room.

If you want a seat, call the Harlow House, 661-2164, or send your check for the amount above.

### Help Wanted Section \*\*\*\*\*

Want to greet visitors and run a store? Substitutes are needed for Museum store in the depot. Call Ellen Brothers, 661-2164.  
\*\*\*\*\*

If you had a hammer... We need someone who likes to tear things apart to dismantle the old furnace in the Harlow House. Call Dick Jones, 252-4306.



## Spring & summer inspire activities from many groups

Filling in your summer calendar? Add these items to your list of things to do:

### Father's Day Breakfast

Corbett Fire Department 14 hosts a Father's Day breakfast in the fire house in conjunction with a tour of antique car clubs from 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, June 14, at the fire hall in "downtown" Corbett on the Historic Columbia River Highway.

This is an ideal opener for the rest of your day, which should include a trip to the second anniversary party of the Columbia River Gorge Interpretive Center at Stevenson, Wash, coming back to Troutdale at mid-afternoon for a stop at our ice cream social.

### Glenfair Yard Sale

Fairview Rockwood Wilkes Historical Society plans to take part in a June 7 yard sale at Glenfair School. You can help them by pricing and donating items and taking them to Fairview's Heslin House, First & Main streets in Fairview, on Friday, June 6.

### Friends of Zimmerman House

The third Saturday of every month is Zimmerman House work day at the historic home at Northeast 171st Avenue and Sandy Boulevard. If you have a hankering to cut berries or work in the yard and help make repairs to this National Register site, just show up at 9 a.m. and they'll find you a job.

### Among our Members

#### Gift memberships:

Audrey Barnett  
from  
Edna Alexander

#### Director's Club:

Elsie Simnitt  
Florence Baker



Gifts  
honoring  
Vera  
Strebin

### Endowment Fund

in memory  
of

**Vera Strebin**

from

Frank & Jean Driver  
Robert & Donna Burlingame  
Lulu Hiyeko Lee & Fumie  
Toyooka & Family  
Elsie Simnitt  
Lola Fellman  
Jim & Frances Toyooka  
Arline Silfberg  
Lola Lumsden  
Howard & Birdell Eliason  
Wendt  
Warren & Christine Howell  
Sharon & Bill Nesbit  
Pat & Ellen Brothers

### Barn Fund

in memory  
of

**Vera Strebin**

from

Bob & Florence Baker  
Evelyn Jacobson  
Bill & Marie Stone  
Phillip & Frances Pino  
Crystal Bayley  
Laura Van Atta  
Doris Woolley  
Sam & Nancy Cox  
Len Otto  
Edwin & Marie Arnold  
George & Echo Walin  
Kukuchek  
Nancy Kordosky



Phone  
Numbers

Harlow House, 661-2164

(Leave a message)

Rail Depot, 667-8268

(No answering machine)



# A story for Mother's Day



by Jean Hybskmann

My grandmother's hands were strong and rough worn with age and hard use. They were a farmer's hands. They held and guides a hoe handle better than anyone. The Lord knows, she spent many hours at that chore, so she could, with ease and skill, slice green weeds just below their roots with the sharp edge of the hoe blade without touching the tender corn plant.

She held a chicken by the feet with her left hand and deftly brought the ax down the neck with the right. Callouses came from hand over hand over hand on the rough gnarly hemp rope, pulling every bucket of water that she used from a 60-foot well.

She never wore gloves. They got in her way.

The large, gentle woman's hands picked corn and threw it into a sled pulled by a team of horses. She picked boysenberries from sunrise until the job was done, her fingers purple and stained from berry juice.

My grandmother thinly-shaved plump golden kernels from just-picked ears of corn and then scraped the cob with the back of the

knife to get the last bit of sticky sweet milk from the ear.

Those same rough hands gently brushed my air in winter when there were not outside chores, the fingers nimbly threaded a needle and made stitched so tiny you could hardly see them on a quilt as he worked with the ladies from the Pleasant Home Methodist church. Sometimes she made dresses and coats for me on a Singer Treadle sewing machine after looking at a picture in the Sears catalog

They were busy hands, never idle. Rolling out pie dough and crimping the edges into pretty flute patterns with thumb and forefinger. Peeling peaches and pears to can in quart Mason jars, then cinching and tightening the zinc lids after they came from hot water bath to make sure they sealed.

They held the reins of the horse she rode to school as a



Alta Stafford & son Floyd - 1913

girl, they held dozens of babies, three of her own. They held a sick child's head while he wretched from the flue and smoothed the hot brow of a fevered brother-in-law as he died.

Her name was Alta, an old-fashioned name. I was her first grandchild and everyone around me called her Mom, so I called her Mom, too.

In hot August and September Oregon summer, the sun baked those busy hands while they harvested the fruit and vegetables to be preserved for the winter. The sun turned those hands as brown and leathery as tanned buckskin.

Many years have gone by, and I am far from a little girl, but I can close my eyes and see her able fingers pinching wooden clothes pin to hold the flapping wet sheets to the line, and I can see them turning the pages of "Black Beauty" and "Call of the Wild" as she read the exciting and wonderful stories to us while we sat before her on the oval rag rug by the stone.

Mom's hands touched and used precious things that I treasure and will keep forever to pass on to my granddaughter: worn stained wooden butter bowl and paddle that she used to work and squeeze the last bit of milk from the just-churned butter and green carnival glass salad plates and sherbet glasses, that had been her mother-in-law's. I never saw her used them because they were so precious to her; they always lived behind glass doors of the oak buffet.

I held those hands as Mom's spirit passed from this life to the next. I grieved and missed her for a long time, until I realized that her teachings, her actions and legacy lived on in my hands. My spirit, skills and talents burst with wonderful memories of a great teacher, my grandmother's hands.

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Jean Hybskmann is a member of our society and Harlow House volunteer coordinator. She is calling now lining up volunteer hosts to tell the story of Troutdale history at the Harlow House museum. Her phone number is 669-7822.

## Namedroppers..Namedroppers

Marge (Typhoon) Schmunk has labored in recent weeks readying the depot and museum store for a May 1 opening. Visitors will see new paint -- thanks to a Saturday work session that included Ed Schmunk, Sadie Riley, Karol Forner, Bill Jackson and Ellen Brothers. They'll see wonderful new trout and train gifts -- including great toys for little kids -- and clean and newly-labeled exhibits...Gresham resident Steve Kasserman and sons, Joel and Jim, are volunteer gutter cleaners for the Harlow House...Bob Strebin, with help from Deb Cook, arranged a gratis dumpster from Waste Management of Troutdale (also ice cream social sponsors, bless them) and cleared the barn of left-over plaster board. Now Bob is getting shelving sandblasted...Flossie Ferch, disabled five years ago by a stroke, was honored April 20 with an 80th birthday celebration. She welcomes greetings from Troutdale friends. Her address is 812 S.E. 48th Ave., Portland, OR 97215... Jo Callister and Evelyn & Byron DeYoung brought the good cookies for our April meeting. Alice Wand rounds up those volunteers...Bill Stone, longtime member and stalwart barn volunteer, is ill and could use a few cheerful greetings. His address: PO Box 207, Fairview, OR 97024...Helen Althaus, former Troutdalian, now of Ashland, survived the January flood there...In a crammed newsletter, don't forget Arlie Harris, who signed up for our Long Beach Trek and sent along a check for the gneral fund for good measure...We also note that Elsie Simnlt's contribution to the barn was substantial enough to get the name of the Troutdale General Store on the barn's main beam of big donors.



**TREASURER'S REPORT**

FROM  
PENNY  
BALCH



OPERATING ACCT.....	\$3,273.20
DED. BARN FUND.....	150.00
BARN BUILDING.....	25,311.20
ENDOWMENT FUND...	25,168.50
DIRECTORS FUND.....	2,386.38
BINGO FUND.....	1,958.73

**TOTAL..... \$ 58,258.01**

This report reflects \$20,000 from the estate of John Nasmyth designated for barn building and exhibits, as well as \$25,000 in our endowment fund, money dedicated to the future of our society.

**GIFTS**

**TO THE BARN FUND**

Troutdale PTA  
Elsie Simnitt  
And in memory of  
**Herbert W. White Jr.**  
from Charlotte White

**GIFTS**

**TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND**

In memory of  
**Herbert White Jr**  
Charlotte White

In memory of  
**Faye Harlow**  
Sharon & Bill Nesbit  
Pat & Ellen Brothers  
Scott & Leanna Taylor

In memory of  
**Lorraine Tetz**  
Elsie Simnitt

In memory of  
**Mildred Jones**  
**Jack Knight**  
**Marlin Struckman**  
**Jo Hewlett**  
Sharon & Bill Nesbit

and from  
Thomas & Sarah Thompson  
Red & Trudi Wood  
Donna Anderson

**Depot and Museum Store open May 1**

Beginning May 1, the Rail Depot Museum and End of the Line Museum Store are open for the summer, Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m.

Marge Schmunk is chair of the depot and will be assisted in running the store and museum this summer by: Ellen Brothers, Carolyn Taylor, Sadie Riley, Dick Waite, Karol Forner and Bill Jackson with Sam Cox acting as substitute. More substitutes are needed. If you could help, please call 661-2164.

Remember if you have gifts to buy, think first of our own museum store.

Recently, as Marge was setting up the station agent's office, she researched one for our railroad books and decided that these items would lend an air of authenticity to the depot: an old lamp for the top of the desk, a mat for writing on the desk, a wall clock, an old waste basket and a metal lunch box. If you can donate any such artifacts, call 6612-2164.

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*It is never too late to pay dues.*



Depot Museum/Store opens May 1  
Hike, Sandy River Delta, May 18  
Harlow House Training, May 19  
Trek to Long Beach, May 31

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

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