

CHRISTMAS AT THE HARLOW HOUSE...

Our December meeting is a change of pace and promises to be a very special event. Instead of the usual evening gathering, our membership voted last month to have a Saturday afternoon open house at the Harlow House, December 19, from 1 to 5 p.m. (For anyone who doesn't know, the Harlow House is located at 726 E. Columbia, around the curve from city hall, the third house on your right when you are heading toward the river.)

While change is good, we are not changing the best part of our annual Christmas party. As you have in the past, please bring a sampling of your favorite Christmas treat, candy, cookies, cake, etc., to share with the others. We will continue to replenish the table throughout the afternoon with these new offerings. The society is providing coffee and hot punch in the tradition of the old English wassail bowl.

So please drop by in the afternoon, sip a cup, admire the Christmas decorations and wish everyone well in the spirit of the season. Santa Claus will be holding forth in an easy chair in front of the fireplace so kids and grandkids are very welcome.

P.S. We have issued special invitations to the Troutdale city council, planning commission, city hall staff and to the Gresham and Crown Point historical societies.

BUSINESS AS USUAL...

President Sam Cox will be appointing a nominating committee to nominate a slate of officers for our February elections. We will dispense with our regular order of business because of the special nature of the December meeting but some things can be reported in the newsletter.

Treasurer Ted Schulte says \$685 has been received in memory of Ada Cox who died last month. About \$130 has been spent so far on construction of the gazebo. Be sure to stop and admire it when you come to the open house Dec. 19.

And we will be applying for our bulk mailing permit in mid-December. If you have suggestions of people we might send the newsletter to, please give us a name and address soon.

AND THANKS...

Steve Kenney presented an excellent film program last month. His collection of old news reels drew rave reviews. And the same goes for Harry Smith who cooked up refreshments so fantastic people are still talking about them.

And thanks ahead of time to Jean Holman, Dorothy Sturges, Sam Cox and Alex Jones who are seeing to it that the Harlow House is decorated for Christmas. If you have Christmas greens to contribute or would like to help, stop by the house Dec. 16 after 1 p.m.

COINCIDENCE...

As a collector of postcards, thousands of old postcards go through Steve Kenney's hands. He found a special one the other day, however. Dated 1908, it is from Harlow M. Douglass to his sister, Irene, our own Irene Douglass Waldo. In the note, Harlow confided that he has "a big lot of lentil hash fixed up."

QUESTIONS WE ARE ASKED...

Sharon Nesbit spoke at a meeting of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon last month. One woman there inquired about the origin of the name of an old road in Corbett that was once called Hogg Mill Road. Anyone have answers? Another woman said her mother and aunt were both born in Troutdale. Anyone ever heard of a Margaret and Francis Dell? And another man told of spending most of his summers at Crown Point with the Dimmitt family which operated Vista House at one time and made many popular postcards of the gorge.

A HEART-FELT WISH FOR A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS.