

Bygone Times



Newsletter of The Troutdale Historical Society.

SEPTEMBER, 1991

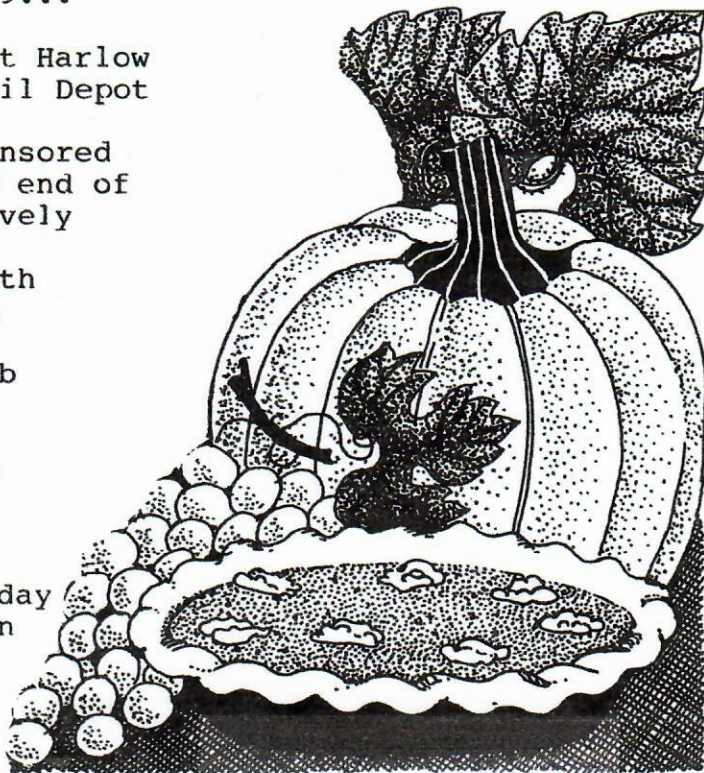
EDITOR SHARON NESBIT, 665-0423

HARVEST FAIRE IS HERE, SEPT. 28 AND 29...

Harvest Faire, our end of summer festival is here on Sept. 28 and 29 at Harlow House, Troutdale City Park and our Rail Depot museum.

This is a community-wide event sponsored by the historical society to mark the end of the summer season and to savor the lovely days of fall.

So what's in store? Live bands both afternoons at Troutdale City Park. An antique show and sale in the park's Great Hall with an appearance from Bob Rau of The Collectors. Estimating of your precious heirlooms by local experts. An antique mini-auction. The Gorge Yourself Cafe with our famous homemade pies and Tad's chicken 'n dumplings. Cider from Sandy River Orchards. Craft booths for early holiday shopping. Granny's Attic where you can buy a collectible. Pioneer craft demonstrations at the Harlow House. A tour of the barn. A visit to our museums, Harlow House and the depot.



HERE'S THE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28

- 10 a.m. Opening of all events at Harlow House and park.
Antique show & sale, admission \$1
Also, food booths, pop & beer sales, craft booths,
Granny's Attic collectible sales, craft demonstrations and
tours at Harlow House.
- 10-12 Estimating of your family heirlooms, cost \$1 an item.
- 1-4 p.m. Live music in the park, "One Note Shy" band.
- 1-4 p.m. Rail depot museum open.
- 1:30 Bob Rau of "The Collectors," autographing his book.
- 5 p.m. Closing.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 29

- 10 a.m. Opening of all events at Harlow House and park.
Antique show & sale, admission \$1
Also, food booths, pop & beer sales, craft booths,
Granny's Attic collectible sales, craft demonstrations and
tours at Harlow House.
- 10-12 Estimating of your family heirlooms, cost \$1 an item.
- 11:30 Walking history tour from park to downtown Troutdale.
- 1 p.m. Antique mini-auction on bandstand

SO HOW CAN YOU BE PART OF THE FUN AND THE WORK...

1. If you are reading this newsletter, you are on the publicity committee. If you live in the Portland metropolitan area, please take the poster on the back page and put it in some prominent spot in your neighborhood. If you are an out of town member, send the poster off to someone who can attend.
2. Bake a pie. Our pie bakers will be contacted by letter, but if we missed you and you want to make a contribution to our historical society food booth, bake a pie in a disposable pan and bring it to the Harvest Faire.
3. Donate to Granny's Attic. We are looking for collectibles, gently used items, things you don't want to bother selling, but too good to give away. Leave them on the front porch of the Harlow House marked, Granny's Attic, along with your name.
4. Volunteer to work a 3.5 hour shift. In the food booth, at the Harlow House, in Granny's attic, at the ticket booths. Call Sharon Nesbit, 665-0423 before Sept.20.
5. Provide decorating materials at 5 p.m., Friday night, Sept. 27. Flowers, corn stalks, pumpkins.
6. Heidi Wilson, 667-9900, is chairwoman of this event. Leave message with her if you have questions and offers of help.

TREASURER'S REPORT...

Events like Harvest Faire, Ice Cream Social and weekly bingo games pay our bills, keep our museums and build our barn.

Following is our treasurer's report as of the last day of July.

Endowment fund.....	\$ 3,570.94
Operating account.....	14,853.79
Dedicated barn funds, for specific uses...	700.00
Barn building fund.....	1,317.07
Total.....	20,441.80

TALKING ABOUT OUR FUTURE...

Each summer the society's board of directors meets with our Board of Trustees to talk about the future of this organization, to consider goals and to day-dream.

Trustees are people who have given substantial gifts of time or money, or both, to the society. They include all those who have been named members of the year.

At our August gathering, the board set two priorities for our society. The first is to complete our barn, and the second is to build a fund to hire part-time staff to conduct day-to-day business and run our museums.

The trustees agreed that our next big priority is the wiring and lighting equipment in our barn, a project estimated at \$13,000. Because of the specialized nature of this work, we can't do this job with volunteers. Our resources must be used to raise the funds.

As a first step, the trustees suggest that we determine how much money we can spare out of our operating account to apply to the barn's "electrical bill." That will require setting up a contingency fund to provide a cushion for Harlow House operations. As anyone who ever owned an old house knows, a roof or a furnace goes bad very quickly.

After the amount of the contingency is determined and money set aside for normal budget needs, the majority of the trustees suggest that we take the operating account surplus and divide it, two-thirds toward barn construction, one-third to a fund to be used for staff.

What do you think? Let your officers know.

THE FOOTHILL SERVICE STATION, ABOUT 1950



Recently, Larry Evans, an East Multnomah County resident, bought a box of stuff from the storage shed operation in Fairview. Inside were dozens of black and white negatives, some dated 1952, of scenes in Troutdale and this area. Evans tracked us down to loan us the negatives so we could make prints for our photo library. The photographer is unknown, but we suspect he was a professional and that he lived in the vicinity of Woodard Road and the Historic Columbia River Highway. Above is his photo of the Foothill Service Station at Woodard Road and the historic highway. The station is now part of Sam and Nancy Cox's trailer court at that location. The sign offers cut glass with a \$3 purchase.

ROSTER IS A BIG HIT...

Many of our members were pleased to get our historical society roster last month, so pleased that they sent in donations to help pay for it. Thanks to your generosity, a big chunk of the cost was covered by donations.

Thanks to BILL & LOIS MOLLER, PAULINE RUGGLES, W.E. & ANNELIESE HAZEN, VERN & MARTINE RATHMAN, JEANNE PULLIAM, BEVERLY WELKER, and BILL & FLORENCE BAKER,

We also heard from Marilyn Howell Redfield, Chim and Tillie Howell's No. 4 Child, who could not find her name in the roster. We have no explanation for that at all, but here is her address: 1611 S.W. Hailey Lane, Pendleton, OR 97801, and our apologies.

Marilyn writes that she is in the nursing program at W.W.C.C. in Walla Walla, Wash. and will finish in June. "I find the Troutdale Historical Society is a lifeline to my roots. Are we having another Troutdale Grade School reunion?" she writes.

FUNNY YOU SHOULD MENTION IT...

We are, indeed, offering an opportunity for Troutdale Grade School graduates, teachers and staff to join us for our October 19 potluck dinner and first meeting of the year. Plans are not quite complete at this writing, but the time should be 3 p.m. Our theme will be school

ENVELOPE BRINGS IN MAIL...

A number of members took advantage of last month's donation envelope to send in their 1992 dues. That is just fine. You will be credited for being paid up next year.

We also gleaned a few new members in the mailing. Welcome to: BILL ELLIS, Gresham; GERRY & MADELINE GRIMM, Portland; GEORGENE VAN ORSOW, Seattle; PHYLLIS & ANDY ANDERSON, Gresham, and JACKIE DOLAN, librarian at the Gresham library.

Also, FLOSSIE FERCH, signed up as a lifetime member of our society. Our \$100 lifetime memberships are placed in our endowment fund.

IN MEMORY OF RANKIN DAVIS...

Rankin Davis, former board member and our Preservationist of the Year this spring, died Aug. 10, at the age of 68.

Rankin, a retired machinist, was a former Troutdale councilman and a dedicated historical society member. He came up with the idea of a Century Club of \$100 barn donors when we got in a pinch with our building fund several years ago. The barn, he believed, would be an important tool in telling children "what it was like to walk along behind your dad while he plowed a furrow."

His family suggested donations to the barn fund. More than \$400 has been received so far. Gifts have come from: JOHN & JUNE NASMYTH; BOB & VERA STREBIN; CRYSTAL BAYLEY; MALCOLM & VIRGINIA BOSLAR; ALICE KERSLAKE; HOWARD WINTERS; WILBUR & VAL RATHMAN; FLORENCE OLSON; WESLEY, SCOTT and DONNA DAVIS; GERTRUDE BOMBINO; ARTHUR LARRANCE; JAMES, RENEE & HEIDI SCHMIDT; MR. AND MRS. RALPH WALD; DUANE & CAROL DAVIS AND FAMILY; GLENN & HELEN OTTO; FRANK & JEAN DRIVER; RUDY & CECILIA MISTEN; IKE & JUNE HANDY, CASCADE CORPORATION, ART BURNS; and RICH & DOROTHY KERSLAKE.

GIFTS FOR ALEX JONES...

Gifts to the barn or endowment funds in memory of Alex Jones have come from: BOB & MAUDE WINNING; JEAN HOLMAN; ALICE KERSLAKE; BOB & VERA STREBIN; SADIE RILEY; IKE & JUNE HANDY; RICHARD & PAULA GOLDIE; ED & MARGE SCHMUNK; GERALD & SHIRLEY LAMBERT; WILLA DAY; EDWARD & VERA ASHLEY; TINA FORD; TRULY WRIGHT; HELEN TILLER; HAZEL LUNDAY, BEVERLY WELKER; BILL & FLORENCE BAKER; HELEN ALTHAUS; JERAL BEATY; VERN & MARTINE RATHMAN; BOB & DOROTHY STURGES; BEN & MARY PEARSALL; LOLA LUMSDEN; JIM & LINDA MURPHY; BETTY & HARVEY WIEPRECHT; HERB & CLOVER NASMYTH; GLENN & HELEN OTTO; and UNITED STEELWORKERS OF AMERICA.

A SPECIAL TREK FOR SPECIAL FOLKS...

If you have volunteered as a host at the Harlow House or the Depot for the last year, or were a Wednesday barn worker, or helped care for Harlow House flowers, then we have a tour for you.

Thanks to the generosity of School Bus Services, which is providing transportation, we will thank our museum volunteers by inviting them to join us Saturday, Oct. 12, for a free trek. All you need bring is yourself and a sack lunch. We will go to Vancouver, Wash., to visit the Clark County Historical Society, the Fort Vancouver Historical Site, Officer's Row and then go to the Pomeroy House near Yacolt, Wash., for a special tour of that farm and house exhibit. There may be other surprises in store. The only money needed is for shopping in the Pomeroy House gift shop, which specializes in English imports.

First priority on this trip goes to museum volunteers, but if room remains on the bus, others can go for a \$10 fee. Those others may sign up on a first come, first served basis with Sharon Nesbit, 665-0423.

A HISTORY OF TROUTDALE SCHOOL...

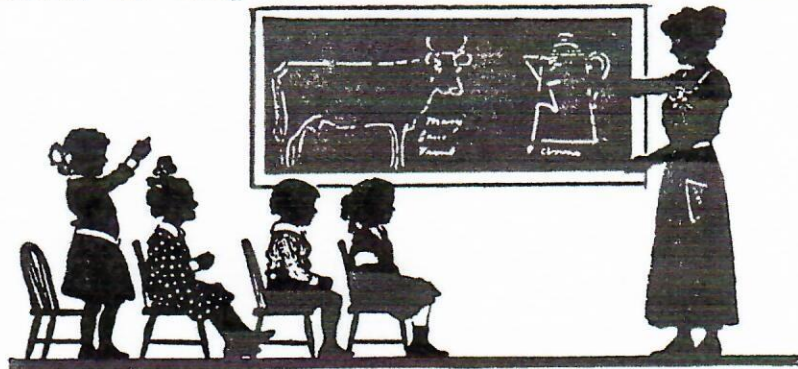
Troutdale school probably began on SunDial Ranch, now the area of the Portland-Troutdale airport. It may have been that there was no need for a school until Capt. James Menzies, his wife Lucy, and their 12 children, came to Troutdale to live on the ranch in 1867. A Gresham Outlook history printed in 1919 notes that Menzies joined with James Stott and David Buxton, his nearest neighbors, in taxing themselves and hiring a teacher, Miss Selina Barker.

Land records show that Buxton donated two acres for the first school house in 1868. That school was on the old Sandy Road east of the present Multnomah County Animal Control.

By 1892, Troutdale was booming and the school was bursting at the seams. Multnomah County roadmaster H.P. Chapman built a large, wooden two-story school on the site of the present school ground, about where the gymnasium now is. Seventy-eight pupils were enrolled that first year. The hilltop property was called the Harlow Forty, having previously been part of the Harlow farm.

An account in Troutdale's newspaper, The Champion, reports Annie Pelton's words in closing ceremonies at the end of the school year, 1893: "Kind friends--this has been an eventful year to us. We have had a new school house, some new desks, a library, a flag and other things. We would have had a bell in the belfry, a well in the yard, if it had not been for the peculiar laws of our state legislature."

The late Olive Parsons remembered school in the early 1900s: "When school convened, children lined up, either outside or in the hall and marched to the rooms as a boy tapped the bell and a girl played a march on the organ...There was a large wood stove in each room where children gathered until time to take their seats...so poor was the heating the children, as they sat in their seats, felt as if they were freezing."



One student reported that the East Wind blew through the building so hard that the clock would swing back and forth on the wall.

In 1911, a Troutdale PTA was organized. It was said to be the first PTA organized in Multnomah County outside Portland.

In 1926, Troutdale built a new four-room school with an auditorium, the core of the present school. The principal, at that time, was R.D. Hewitt. The PTA served hot lunches at the school for a cost, in 1933, of three cents a day or 15 cents a week.

In 1940, Troutdale school consolidated with Cedar School. The Cedar School still stands on Troutdale Road. In 1947-1948 school board member Bill Elmer booted the Troutdale Rod and Gun Club out of the woods north of Troutdale school to make way for a playground. Previously the rod and gun club used the school basement for a shooting range.

In 1949, the south wing of eight classrooms was added to Troutdale. In 1955, Troutdale joined with Fairview and Wilkes to form Reynolds School District. Troutdale ceased to be the town's lone grade school when Sweethriar Elementary School opened in 1975. Columbia High

THE WISH LIST...

Is there someone out there updating a computer system who would like to have a nice tax deduction by donating a computer and printer to the Harlow House museum?

If we had all our druthers, we would like to have an Apple IIe to marry to the one being used by our director. A computer would be a start toward having facilities for a staff in our museums.

If we had more wishes, we would wish for someone to refinish our dining room set in the Harlow House. Or for someone to recane and refinish an antique bench donated to us by the Harlows.

NAMEDROPPERS...

Many thanks to IRA DUELTGEN, Portland, a friend of MARY HUGHES. He fixed our record player in the Harlow House... DENA SMITH is recovering from surgery and feeling better every day. You remember her, she drove the Troutdale School Bus for years... Does anyone remember JOHN ANDREW SMITH who owned the SunDial Ranch, possibly in the 1930s. His relative JO SOUTHWORTH, Portland, would like to know more... "Even my husband noticed how nice the Harlow House grounds look," said one of our members as she drove by the museum recently. For that, please say thanks to our Green Thumb group, BETTY KNIGHT, DONNA KLUEHE, LAUREN & JOYCE STOECKEL, CINDY HAMMOND, JEFF & CONNIE VAN CLEAVE, JAMES & EILEEN FORD of the Troutdale Grange; CATHY HAMME; and the late ALEX JONES. Special thanks to HEIDI WILSON, who is maintaining Alex's flower bed since his death in July.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER...

Someone asked for this recipe from our spring brunch. Hazel Webb provided it. Now we have room to print it.

BROCCOLI AND RAISIN SALAD

1 bunch broccoli
1 sweet onion, diced
1/2 cup white raisins
1/2 cup sun flower seeds
2 tablescons bacon bits

Cut and boil broccoli slightly. Mix with onion, raisins, sunflower seeds and bacon bits. Marinate overnight in the following dressing:

1/4 cup mayonnaise
1/4 cup yogurt, plain
2 tablespoons sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons white wine or rice vinegar

THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO...

On Thursday, Sept. 19, beginning at 9 a.m. at Troutdale Grade School, Sharon Nesbit leads a tour of Sweetbriar fourth graders through the city, concluding at Troutdale city park. It will take about two and one-half hours. You are welcome to join us. The same tour repeats Thursday, Oct. 3, 9 a.m., at Troutdale school. And, if weekends are your only chance, don't forget the walking tour that begins at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 29, in the park.

Finally, we have a work day to winter-in the Harlow House and the barn on Saturday, Oct. 19, beginning at 9 a.m. Those who can may work through to our 3 p.m. potluck dinner, which they may attend proud and grubby. We plan to clean up the grounds, possibly plant some winter-blooming flowers, do some last minute painting, if weather permits, and seal up our barn. There will be jobs for everyone, including children. And we'll try to whistle while we work.