

Bygone Times

A Newsletter of The Troutdale Historical Society.



JANUARY, 1993

EDITOR SHARON NESBIT, 665-0423

BEGINNING A STUDY OF THE OREGON TRAIL WITH A TALK ON FOOD

Foods on the Oregon Trail, a talk about it and a taste of it from a food historian, are all part of our continuing series of Oregon Trail studies. Show up at 2 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 10 in Troutdale City Hall to learn about pioneer vittles from food historian Peggy Lutz of Tigard.

Lutz knows how to cook an Oregon Trail dinner, complete with buffalo soup and raspberry vinegar drink, hardtack, buttermilk bread and dessert. It is dessert that she will feed us, Oregon Trail apricot shortcake served with milk. "With tons of apricots in it," she reports.

Lutz is writing about historical foods on the Oregon Trail in a piece entitled, "Buffalo Chips and Bacon: The History of Food on the Oregon Trail."

Because of our special emphasis on the Oregon Trail, the board of directors has authorized payment in 1993 for speakers such as Lutz. As she is providing dessert, extra expense is involved so we will set up a collection jar to help pay the costs of the program.

Note: If roads are icy and travel is hazardous, the meeting is automatically cancelled.

Delays in construction of the Oregon Trail panels at the Columbia Gorge Factory Stores have resulted in the postponement of a planned dedication of those markers. We'll plan on that later in the spring.

AND HOW ABOUT HAM FOR SAM...

Ten years ago, after having served a decade as mayor, we held a sit-down dinner and roast of then Mayor Bob Sturges. Now the same thing is happening all over again for Sam Cox, who is just finishing his 10-year stint as mayor of Troutdale. We call him the "mayor for this decade."

History is repeating itself in another dinner, this time called "Ham for Sam", beginning at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 8, in the Great Hall at Troutdale City Park. The focus of this event is on Sam's fellow politicians, mayors and folks he has worked with at City Hall in the last 10 years, so those people have been given first shot at tickets. However, all of us are welcome up to the point that we fill the 100 places at dinner. If you would like to attend send your check to Ellen Brothers to reserve seats. Ellen's number at the Harlow House is 661-2164. Her number at home is 695-2382. Cost for the meal is \$15 a person. If all the dinner seats are filled, you are always welcome to drop by at about 8 p.m. to listen to or take part in the roast.



NUMBERS CRUNCHED ON REVERSING THE OREGON TRAIL...

People who want to join our first-ever overnight trek on April 24 and 25 to Baker City have asked what the cost will be. We have been busily crunching numbers on the cost of doing the Oregon Trail backwards and this is what we have come up with.

The trip to Baker City including transportation, a steak dinner at the famous cowboy eatery, the Haines Steak House, a night in the (what else?) Oregon Trail Motel, visits to the Haines museum and the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center and a tentative stop at the museum in Pendleton, as well as a box lunch to munch on your way home will be \$120 a person or, if you want a motel room all to yourself, \$136.

We leave Troutdale City Hall at 8 a.m., Saturday, April 24, stopping for coffee at Biggs Jct., to eat our sack lunches in Pendleton. If we arrive early enough in Baker City, you will have an opportunity to fit in the city museum. That evening we board our bus and go north to the little town of Haines where you can feast on either a fork-tender 6-ounce filet of beef or halibut. Afterward the folks at Haines are going to open up their local museum for us.

The next morning, after breakfast on your own at the motel restaurant, we take our 22-passenger bus to Flagstaff Hill for a two and one-half hour visit to the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center.

Then back on the bus, armed with the kind of box lunches that they make for firefighters, heading home via Pendleton making quick stops for restroom needs, returning to Troutdale at about 7 p.m.

We already have four persons signed up for this trip. Though there is no need to pay this early, you may reserve a seat by letting us know if you intend to go. Please call or write, Ellen Brothers.

BEN WAS BACK...

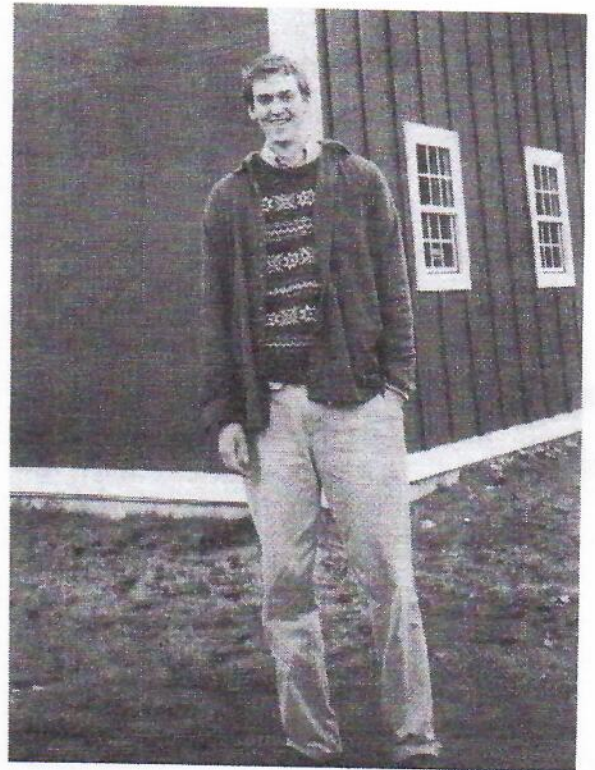
We all know him as Ben.

Ben Wetherill was wandering through Troutdale on his way home from working on an Alaska fishing boat in the summer of 1988, when he spotted the sign on our just barely under construction barn that said we were having a barn-raising.

Ben veered off, camped out most of the summer and fall, and worked on our barn, first as a volunteer and finally as a paid worker. He built and designed the cupola and his name is written up inside the structure at the very peak of the barn.

Ben ceased wandering and went back to college. He graduates this year in Russian studies, has traveled in Russia and New Zealand, and still fishes in Alaska in the summer.

Ben came back last month on a quick trip to Portland. Dick Jones, Sharon Nesbit, and Sam Cox welcomed him and took him on a tour of "his" barn. The memories of that summer came flooding back. It was a good time.



OFFICER ELECTION COMING UP...

We will be electing new officers in February, with nominations at our Jan. 10 meeting. If you are interested in serving, call Heidi Wilson, 667-9900.

THANKS TO THESE FOLKS...

Over two chilly weekends in November, volunteers helped put nearly all the insulation in the barn.

At right you see Bill Stone on the ladder and Bob Winning putting insulation in the loft of the barn.

Others who took part in the project, thereby earning credit of \$10 an hour for barn contributions, were: Dick Jones, Sharon Nesbit, Jean Holman, Sam Cox, Bus Gibson, Roy Hoover, Frank Driver and Bob Strebin.



HOME TOUR FUN, BUT NOT A FINANCIAL SUCCESS...

Much to the disappointment of our chairwoman, Karen Burger-Kimber, the Dec. 13 holiday home tour did not draw enough numbers to be a financial success.

The people who attended enjoyed it very much and it was a pleasant afternoon visiting interesting houses. We owe special thanks to these people who opened their homes: Don and Ginger Clark at the Wilson House; David Ripma at Sweet Brier Farm; Rick and Linda Paz at the Eaton Farmhouse; Karen Burger-Kimber at Hope Gardens; Debbie and Orville Byrd at the Manse in Fairview; Sam and Nancy Cox at their gardens and the staff at Edgefield in the Administrator's House.

We also thank these volunteers: Greg & Sue Handy, Robin & Cindy Lehman, Ted & Velma Norman, Cathy Hamme, Dorothy Sturges, Jean Holman, Sharon Nesbit, Pat & Ellen Brothers, Curt & Geri Von Ahn, Nick & Barbara Welsh, Maude & Bob Winning, Rick & Julie Russell, Heidi Wilson, Florence Baker, Reba Mitchell and Dick Jones.

More thanks to Shirley's Cafe and McMenamin's at Edgefield, our sponsors. And thank you to Karen Burger-Kimber who conceived, planned and organized the tour. Her effort is appreciated.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS...

We have received gifts to the endowment fund in memory of Albert Pina and Paul Overstad from BOB & VERA STREBIN...LOIS MOLLER made a donation to the barn fund.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS...

Greetings to these new members: LYNN SIMONSON of Portland; LOUISE BRAIM of Troutdale; ROBERT, JANEAN & HALIE DUKE of Boring; SCOTT HARLOW TAYLOR of Portland; and GLORIA LADUM of Portland.

IN MEMORY...

Allen House died in December. He and his wife are longtime friends of Sam and Nancy Cox and joined our society through them.

CHRISTMAS AT THE HARLOW HOUSE...

Many thanks to our decorators...DOROTHY STURGES, CATHY HAMME, ELLEN BROTHERS, BARBARA WELSH, JEAN HOLMAN, SAM COX & DICK JONES...And to MALCOLM BOSLAR of Bend, who never fails to send a box of juniper to scent the house...to PEARL DORIS RAMSETH who played the organ...And Santas TED SCHULTE and BOB MITCHOFF...It was a lovely day, filled with cookies and friends and the shy smiles of children.

THANKS, TED...

After more than five years, Ted Schulte has retired as a historical society volunteer at bingo, including a longish stint as chairman. We give him our thanks and a gift certificate to buy a few trinkets for his motor home.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK...

The snow is beginning to stick to the branches of the old walnut tree outside the office window at the Harlow House. It's cozy here at Christmas, the house all decorated by volunteers. Spicy scents of wassail bubbling on the stove and fresh-baked cookies are threatening to lure me downstairs. I resist for I have some things to do, but hope for visitors so I can share the moment and sneak a sweet. Those of you who missed the museum at Christmas, please stop by this month on either Saturday, 1 to 5 p.m., or Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m.

It's the time of year for extending good wishes, reflecting and thanking others. I would like to thank all of you who have helped me begin to learn the ropes as director. Thank you to all the volunteers who have hosted at the Harlow House, the ice cream social, the Harvest Faire, the Christmas home tour, on barn work days and on every other project. Most especially, thank you to Sharon Nesbit and Cathy Hamme for all their support and for never saying, "Haven't you learned that yet?" when I asked the same question three times over.

Happy Holidays and Greetings for the New Year,

Ellen Brothers

NEWS FROM EDGEFIELD...

Several historical society members with ties to Edgefield Manor met at McMenamin's Power Station in December to share memories with the artists who will paint the murals on the first floor of the main lodge. Work began in December on renovations to the main building and should be completed by June. Thanks to Jo Callister for organizing the afternoon of reminiscence.

TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
104 S.E. KIBLING ST.
TROUTDALE, ORE. 97060

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