

Bygone Times

A Newsletter of The Troutdale Historical Society.



JANUARY, 1987

EDITOR: Sharon Nesbit, 665-0423

WE'VE DONE IT...HARLOW HOUSE IS PAID FOR!!!!

A dream nearly 20 years old became a reality on Dec. 20 when historical society members made the final donations that not only paid off the mortgage on our museum, Harlow House, but exceeded our goal by \$600.

Our old house, first mentioned as a possible museum back in 1968 when we organized, is now ours. Go by and take a look at it...Sadie Riley has painted some "Just Paid For" signs to plant in the front lawn. We are planning a mortgage burning party complete with a champagne toast on Jan. 18 and--just when you thought we could rest on our laurels--we are pushing ahead with plans to build our museum barn.

None of this would have happened, of course, without the help of the City of Troutdale which first purchased the house and held the mortgage. Or people long gone, such as Dick Knarr, Bob Kerslake, Fay Davis, and many others who donated so much to our first museum in the city park. (We used the money we had invested in that first building as a down payment on the Harlow House.)

Or to the many whose contributions came straight from their kitchens, the cookies, pies, cakes and bread we sold in our fundraisers. The folks who labored over banana splits, hamburgers and spaghetti. All of it came together to pay off our mortgage.

Our race to pay off the Harlow House started last April with \$4,350 owing. A good chunk of that, about \$2,000, came from the money we earned at various fund-raising projects last year. The remainder came from friends who pitched in \$100 donations to pay off the rest.

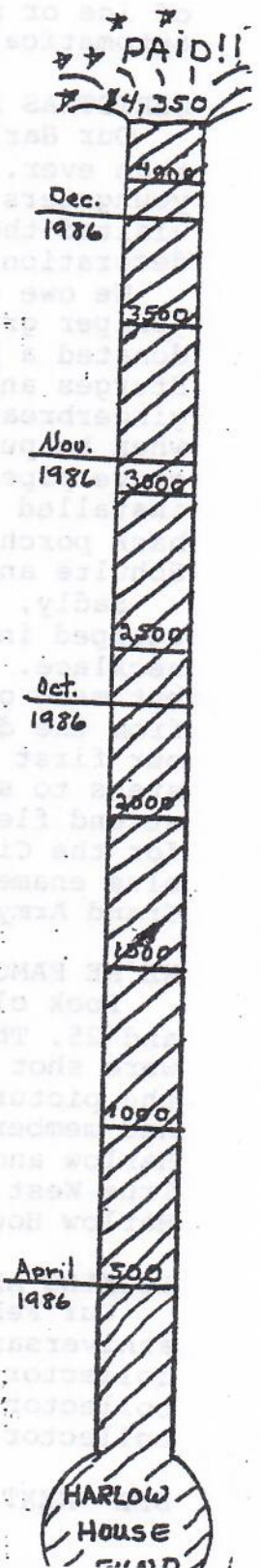
The most recent of those came from: Faye Harlow and family; Chim and Tillie Howell; Judy Jones; Vern and Marty Rathman; Lois Moller and Clara Howk; Sue and Rankin Davis; Lucile Howell; Bob and Dorothy Sturges; and Ted and Lois Schulte,

Cathy Hamme gave \$50 and John Nasmyth, donated another \$200 making a total of \$400 from him.

NOW TO THE TOAST AND THE TRAIL...

What better opportunity to toast our success than our next meeting on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 18th? We will meet first at 1 p.m. at the Great Hall at Troutdale City Park where we will toast the occasion and have a symbolic burning of the mortgage.

Then at 2 p.m. we will go to city hall where Ruth and Orson Goodrich will be waiting with their Oregon Trail and Barlow Road slide and sound show, a treat we've been awaiting for several months.



JAN 18 MEETING, CONTINUED...

Florence Baker, Gladys Norment and Vera Strebin are providing refreshments for the meeting.

An Outlook story about the Goodrichs and their slide show is reprinted on Page 3 of this newsletter.

In order to give people plenty of time to enjoy this very special slide show we have moved our regular meeting to Sunday afternoon. Of course, if driving conditions are hazardous because of ice or snow, the slide show and the mortgage burning are automatically cancelled.

CHRISTMAS AT THE HARLOW HOUSE...

Our Harlow House Christmas celebration was bigger and better than ever. We had about 120 people, including a great many youngsters, on Dec. 20 when Santa Claus was present. Another 45 visited the house the following day just to see the Christmas decorations. And about 60 came again on the following weekend.

We owe special thanks to Charles and Edna Ellis who sent juniper greens from Hermiston and to Dick and Paul Goldie who donated a poinsettia. To Sharon Nesbit, Cathy Hamme, Dorothy Sturges and Jean Holman who made and decorated 53 miniature gingerbread houses for the tree. To Sam Cox who risked frostbite when he put up the lights. To Alex Jones who donated the new stove pipe for our dining room stove. To Ted Schulte who installed it and also worked most of the month remodeling the back porch which will soon be the caretaker's kitchen. And to Ted Schulte and Ed Schmunk who wore out their knees as Santa Claus.

Sadly, we lost a few items to a thief on Dec. 27. Someone stepped into caretaker Kim Brewer's quarters and stole a necklace. They also got a string of antique beads (interesting, but made only of rolled paper), and a Civil War veteran's medal from the display cases in the museum display room. While this is our first loss in a number of years, we are taking additional steps to secure some of the smaller items. And we ask members who attend flea markets and antique stores to keep a close eye out for the Civil War medal. It was a gold-toned metal with red and blue enameling and was presented to Civil War veterans by the Grand Army of the Republic.

WE'RE FAMOUS...

Look closely in the Oregonian's Northwest Magazine on Jan. 18 and 25. The Fred Meyer fashion photos you see in the color ads were shot in the Harlow House. The photographer and crew who took the pictures were delighted with the rustic look of the house. And member Curt Kaiser has written a clever story about Capt. Harlow and his runaway carp for the January, 1987, edition of True West Magazine. It includes a picture of Troutdale and the Harlow House.

LOOKING AHEAD...

Our Feb. 16 meeting in Troutdale City Hall will be the 19th anniversary of our historical society. Our program will be a collector's corner...short talks and exhibits from: Karl Hayes, a collector of antique toys; Margaret Okrasinski, a sheet music collector; and Leo Larsen, who collects antique carpenter tools.

SEE NEXT PAGE

Show recreates struggle of life on trail

by SHARON NESBIT
of The Outlook staff

Orson and Ruth Goodrich have been in a rut for years.

But their particular rut, the Oregon Trail, has led them along paths that they might never have taken and introduced them to people and places they might not have seen.

For more than 25 years, the two have studied and retraced the Oregon Trail from Independence, Mo., to Oregon City. These days they are on the road with a slide and sound show that tells all about the historic route and the people who struggled overland from 1844 to 1903.

The Goodrichs will present their one and one-half hour program at 7 p.m. April 2 in the Corbett High School Multi-purpose Room. The show is sponsored by the Corbett Extension and the Vista House project.

The program is free. However, a donation will be accepted to help the Goodrichs pay expenses.

Goodrich, now retired from television station KOIN, says he has shown his slides as often as four times a week. It all began 30 years ago when he picked up a book on Oregon pioneer women and became intrigued with the the story of their travels over the Oregon Trail.

"It's amazing what the people had to go through to get out here," he says. "Some of them went barefooted. The Barlow boys wore out all their shoes and came over the trail wearing gunny sacks on their feet. . . Can you imagine our kids doing that these days?"

Even with good shoes, the Goodrichs' three children occasionally put up a protest of their own.

After he got interested in the trail, Goodrich explains, he would load up Boy Scouts or Campfire Girls and take them on trail-hunting expeditions.

"Then we would spend our summer vacation out finding ruts," adds Ruth

Goodrich.

"It got so the kids could groan and say, 'Not another rut trip,'" Orson remembers.

When he retired in 1978, the pair look off on a long jaunt over the trail with subsequent side trips over California's Donner Trail and the Santa Fe trail.

For their Oregon Trail trip they ordered county maps from every state the trail passed through and painstakingly retraced the route.

"The maps were so big we'd have to get out and lay them out on the top of the car and sight along the trail," Orson remembers.

On the same trip they met Gregory Franzwa, who subsequently published a book that reduced the Oregon Trail maps to a much more manageable size.

The Goodrichs ended up with some 2,000 slides covering the 2,000 mile trail and put them together in a slide show that was two and one-half hours long. Too long, they admitted.

They have since shortened it by an hour and added synchronized sound with narration done by Ron Rule, a retired KOIN radio announcer.

"I'm not any great authority," cautions Orson. But his library bulges with Oregon Trail books and his closet is crammed with slides he has collected.

There is enough material that Orson is considering putting together a second slide show showing the trail from the women's viewpoint.

Some of that will come from Ruth, who has traipsed through muddy barneys in her Sunday high heels to see ruts. She was, she admits, a city girl before Orson took her out camping and trail hunting.

People who come to see the Goodrichs' slide shows will be happy to know that even Oregon Trail tracers have trouble reading maps.

"He doesn't think I read the map right," Ruth confides, telling of a trip to California where the pair was tem-



Staff photo by Sharon Nesbit

Orson and Ruth Goodrich have spent more than a quarter of a century studying the Oregon Trail.

porarily lost.

"He turned the car around real fast and drove off in a cloud of dust and the next thing you know there was a

police man and we got a ticket."

That's one thing the Oregon Trail had going for it. There were no traffic tickets.

PAGE FOUR

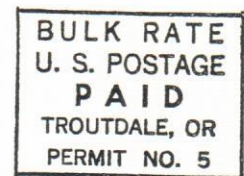
WE NEED YOU THERE...

On Tuesday evening, Jan. 13, at 7 p.m. in city hall, the Troutdale City Council will decide whether or not to designate Edgefield Manor as a historic resource district. In November the Planning Commission voted to approve the historic resource designation but the council makes the final decision. Your presence is always a help. Naturally we hope to save Edgefield Manor, but if that is not possible, we want to make certain that the building is designated a historic site and goes through a hearing process before a decision is made to tear it down.

NAMES WE KNOW...

GLADYS EVERETT and GERTRUDE GLUTSCH JENSEN, both of whom were friends of this society, died in late December... Also deceased is BETTY DUNKEN, wife of member BOB DUNKEN...Not only did Troutdale school offer us space for a display in their trophy case but the Troutdale PTA sent us a donation. Thanks to JOYCE STOECKEL for seeing to it...People interested in a panoramic photo of Troutdale taken in the 1930s from the Bissinger water tower should call Sharon Nesbit. The photos are about 4 inches wide and 20 inches long and cost \$25...We have received a nice wool carpet for one of the Harlow House bedrooms from Victoria Sears of Corbett...Among our new members are GREG and SUE HANDY, ROBERTA KOLLMORGAN and FRED SIMMONS...

TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
104 SE Kibling
Troutdale, Ore. 97060



INSIDE:
HARLOW HOUSE MORTGAGE PAID OFF!