

# BYGONE TIMES

A Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

December, 1998

Sharon Nesbit, Editor, 665-0423

## Greetings of the season

The holidays in Troutdale have never glittered as much as they do this year. How would old John Harlow react, do you think, if he climbed in his horse and buggy and clip-clopped down the old highway with its bright row of new buildings on the north side, the garland-wrapped and beribboned light posts, and Mayor Square with Christmas tree and fancy benches?



Perhaps he wouldn't be so surprised after all. Harlow planned and laid out the town of Troutdale and horn-swoggled the Union Pacific Railroad into establishing a railroad depot here because he believed in this place. Maybe he would have said, "I told you so."

The same goes for our society, which has long supported preservation of Troutdale's historic downtown. Our sincere thanks to those city leaders and business people who shared the dream and built the north side to complement what was already there.

Coming in January:

## Secrets from the Zimmerman House

On Jan. 17, at 2 p.m. in Troutdale City Hall, we hear from Ted Welty and Dodi Davies, leaders in the Friends of the Zimmerman House who are restoring the remarkable Queen Anne home at Northeast 171st and Sandy Boulevard as a Gresham historical park.

Since the death of Isobel Zimmerman, the last immediate member of the Zimmerman family, the group founded by the late Dick Jones and Sharon Nesbit, among others, has explored the story of the home and the family, as revealed in contents described as "a 100-year time capsule of one family."

Just one facet of that historic treasure, the Zimmerman House valentines, go on display in in early January in the Harlow House.

To learn about this home, its past and its future, be sure to attend our Jan. 17 meeting.

## CALENDAR

### Meetings

*Sunday, Jan. 17, 2 p.m.*

**Story of the Zimmerman House**

Troutdale City Hall

From Ted Welty & Dodi Davies, Friends of the Zimmerman House

*Sunday, Feb. 14, 2 p.m.*

**Thirty-first Anniversary**

**Commercialism on the Columbia River Highway**

Troutdale City Hall

Historic photos of roadhouses, restaurants and gas stations on the Historic Columbia River Highway from Steve Lehl and Chuck Rollins, Crown Point Country Historical Society.

### Board of Directors

*Wednesday, Jan. 6, 7 p.m.*

In the barn. All members welcome

*Wednesday, Feb. 3, 7 p.m.*

In the barn. All members welcome

### Harlow House

*Saturdays and Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m.*

**Depot Museum & Store**

*Closed for the winter*

## Don't miss the toy trains this month at Harlow House

For December only, Saturdays and Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m., the antique toy train collection of George Perry is on display at the Harlow House.



Also a selection of collectible trains from Bob Mitchoff.

As well as the book, "Pictorial History of East Multnomah County," and our 1998 Gingerbread Man ornament.

## Talented crew decorates, eats

Bob Strebin came to the Harlow House a few days before **DECORATING DAY** and installed the tree -- donated by **Skipper & Jordan Nursery** -- and put up the lights. Said he didn't want to be around when the women showed up to decorate. He might have been trampled.

On Dec. 2, **Mary Bryson, Deb Cook, Jean Hybskmann, Mona Mitchoff, Christina Balsiger, Kay Struckman, Jean Holman, Sharon Nesbit, Dorothy Sturges & Adrienne Clausen** arrived with a whole load of men -- gingerbread men made of cinnamon -- to trim the Harlow House. Adrienne brought soup for a noon feeding of the troops. **Marge Schmunk** had already been there setting up a selection of train gifts from the depot. **George and Virginia Perry** brought antique toy trains to show, as did **Bob Mitchoff. James Cook** contributed toy trains for children to play with under the tree.

Spiffing up resulted in curtain washing, the disintegration of same, and a decision to buy new curtains that very day, sending **Deb Cook** on a buying mission.

Thanks to **Boy Scouts, Pack 174**, for our Christmas wreath and to Santas, **Ted Schulte and Bob Mitchoff**, whose gentle Santa skills have made Harlow House Christmas such a pleasure.

About 200 people -- 54 of them, children -- came Dec. 5. The house with all its Christmas finery remains open every weekend in December, Sat. and Sun., 1-4 p.m.

## Things we need to make life easier on volunteers

Curator **Mary Bryson** needs a **roll-around clothes rack** that could be used to hang our clothing collection in our new storage area in the barn.

And **Deb Cook** could save time chasing around after copies if she had one of those new, **small copy machines** in case Santa is listening.

## Gifts

to the  
**Endowment Fund**

in memory of

**Sam K. Cox**

Doris Woolley  
Lorraine Bliven

Edna Alexander & Edward, Nedra  
& Heather Palmquist

Richard & Willetta Hill

Harvey & Betty Wieprecht

Elsie J. Simnitt

Marie O. Stone

Dorothy Sturges

Roy & Nancy Hoover

## Edna Ellis interview offered on video tape

Our Nov. 15 interview with **Edna Bramhall Ellis** filled almost every seat in Troutdale City Hall and was a delightful reminiscence of her life as a youngster and later as a young married woman in Troutdale.

One of the most poignant stories of her Depression-era marriage to **Bill Ellis** was when the two scraped \$36 together to build a 14x20-foot cabin on their property on the hill in Troutdale, but lacked money for a door or windows. They rebuilt an old door to close the gap and later, when **Bill** could afford it, he stopped at **Murphy's Lumber Yard** at the bottom of the hill and bought two windows, which he carried uphill on his back, because they had no car.

"And then," she added, "he cut the holes too big."

The interview was videotaped by a professional and is available for \$20, plus shipping. If you want to buy a copy, call **Deb Cook** at 661-2164.

## Welcome new

members:



**Margaret L. Splawn  
Dick and Joan Raz**

## Grants of \$3,400 assure time line

**Deb Cook**, our director, is just like a dedicated fisherman. She has never landed a big one, but she keeps casting about.

We're talking about grant money, and small ones mount up. Recently, **Deb** prepared a successful application that brought \$2,000 from **Trust Management Service** for production of the Troutdale time line in the barn museum.

That, plus other money from **PGE, J. Frank Schmidt Family Trust and Samuel Johnson Foundation**, is about half the estimated cost an illustrated time line of Troutdale history for the south wall of the barn. We're still looking for another \$3,000.

This month **Bob Strebin** and the barnstorm committee started work on the time line, which will show events in Troutdale, in context with historic signposts in the region and the world. Consulting with us is a **Reynolds district principal, Dennis Sizemore**, since we want this time line to appeal to children.

## In Memory

**Mary Malcom Allen** died in late November.

A former secretary of the society, she enjoyed traveling on Troutdale Treks and often contributed gentle reminiscence



about events in Troutdale. Her family was one of the pioneer gladiola growers in Troutdale.

Other deaths in recent months are **Richard Waite**, who was a Troutdale Trek traveler and a faithful volunteer at the rail depot, as well as **John Sherman, Claude Forquer and Lloyd Snell**.

# MEMO

\*\*\*Pam George (she and her husband Frank are restoring the former Fujii home on Troutdale Road for use as a bed and breakfast) has our scrapbook material and promises an updated society history for our 31st anniversary meeting, Feb. 14.

\*\*\* Shortly before her recent move, **Crystal Bayley**, retired teacher from Troutdale Elementary School, brought a box of school photos and mementos to Harlow House. Curator Mary Bryson says it is another treasure to add to our collection.

\*\*\* We need someone interested in video taping our live interview meetings. Such interviews occur only once or twice a year. The tapes that result keep the memories alive in our oral history library.

\*\*\* We have volunteers to provide cookies for our meetings, but we need a coordinator to make a few phone calls and set up future refreshment volunteers. Telephone Deb Cook, 661-2164.

\*\*\* Some winter volunteer hosts for the Harlow House are needed. Relish a quiet winter afternoon catching up on the Sunday funnies and greeting visitors? Call 661-2164.

## End of the year reminder on giving

If 1998 was a good year for you and a tax deductible gift would be of benefit, consider a year-end donation to the Troutdale Historical Society.

At this time of year, our cupboard is pretty bare, proving once again that we are, indeed, a nonprofit organization.

Some extra money for equipment, or our director's fund, or to pay the heat bill is a pretty nice gift.

## Jim Cook record of dad's garage

Jim Cook whose father ran the corner garage at Beaver Creek on the historic highway promised some history of that place.

"The folks started with a blacksmith's shop, wagon repair and small amount of vehicles and a snack shop at Bridal Veil before coming to Troutdale.

"As close as I can figure, they must have moved to Troutdale and built the garage about 1921. It seems they bought it from Van Buskirks. The folks had a house east of the garage built as well. It is now gone.

"Their names were James L. Cook and Ethel Ella Elizabeth Cook. She was a Smith from Brower. Her folks lived in a homestead above Palmer Mill above Bridal Veil."

Jim attached a photo copy of a business card of the services offered by James Cook at the garage. Cook was the official AAA tow truck, offering towing at all hours as well as welding and lathe work and blacksmith and auto repair.

Such industry was critical to Troutdale's business survival after construction of the Columbia River Highway. Troutdale's commercial ties to the roadway are highlighted on a new historical marker in Mayor Square in Troutdale.

More information and photos will be offered February 14 when Steve Lehl and Chuck Rollins show a new photo collection of roadhouses, restaurants and gas stations on the Historic Columbia River Highway.

## Election due

February is election of officers. A nominating committee will set to work in January. If you are interested in a position on the board, please notify Deb Cook or David Ripma.



## So what is a yegg?

Under the working title of "Crimes and Catastrophes," Connie Purvis is preparing a program for our



March 14 meeting on such events as the robbery of the Troutdale Bank, the Great Troutdale Pool Hall robbery, the time that the Gray Wolf, famed robber Earl Miner held up the train near Troutdale and other such events. What is a yegg? Find out on March 14.

## Ways and Means group established

A meeting in early November was the first for our new Ways and Means committee.

The need to get such a committee up and running is emphasized by Kim Cook, who has volunteered to do a marketing plan for our organization. Cook insists that we develop a dependable income for our society, correctly price our services and run on a businesslike basis.

Scott Cunningham, Cook, Sheryl Maydew and Deb Cook are meeting in that regard. In November we heard from Susan Tissot, a former resident and a museum professional who most recently established a tsunami museum in Hilo, Hawaii. Among her suggestions to increase business were and get a new display in the depot and get the building open on a regular basis in order to draw customers to the depot store, work toward a full time director, and eventually offer a museum store in the barn.

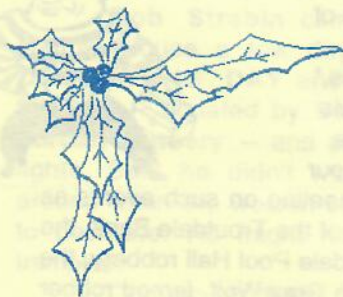
If you have ideas to offer please get in touch.

Part of Kim's plan is to set goals. How did we do in 1998? We completed picnic and Harvest Faire obligations, got Harlow House painted and are half way to getting the shop in the barn done.

What is undone? Harlow House carpet, Robin's Way trail makers and some work in the depot.

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

**BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
TROUTDALE, OR.  
PERMIT NO. 5**



**See Harlow House  
in Christmas trim  
in December  
Sat. and Sun.  
1-4 p.m.**

***The books are here!***

**The East Multnomah  
County Pictorial  
History, published  
in cooperation with  
local historical  
societies and  
The Gresham Outlook  
is available at the  
Harlow House for \$39.95.  
To get your  
Christmas gift copies  
visit the house Saturday  
or Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m.  
or telephone, 661-2164.**

## Do You Remember?

