

Bygone Times



A Newsletter of The Troutdale Historical Society.

FEBRUARY, 1989

EDITOR: Sharon Nesbit, 665-0423

A BIRTHDAY, BARN-RAISIN' AND A HITCHIN'....

Three major events will be celebrated at the next meeting of the Troutdale Historical Society at 2 p.m. Sunday afternoon, February 19, at Troutdale City Hall, 104 S.E. Kibling Street.

We will celebrate our coming of age, our 21st birthday. That is traditionally done with birthday cake and ice cream at the close of the meeting. This year, the cake will be wedding cake in recognition of the January marriage of two historical society members, John Nasmyth and June McGinnis Sherman. Bring a wedding card to congratulate the couple.

And our program will be a look back at last summer's barnraising. Dick Jones, who supervised the construction project of the first phase of our museum barn, took pictures and video tapes of every step of the process. He will condense eight hours of tape down to a half-hour program and will bring along a display of black and white photos showing the progress of the building from July, 1988, when we began to November when it was sealed for the winter. What the pictures will not show is the way this society rolled up its sleeves and went to work to raise the money necessary for the first phase of construction. We will see what our dollars did.

BRING YOUR HONEY TO BRUNCH...

Though this newsletter comes just in the nick of time, please join us for brunch this Sunday, Feb. 12, at the Grange Hall in Corbett.

The Crown Point Historical Society and the Columbia Grange have invited us to join them in presenting a Sweetheart Brunch at the grange hall from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cooks will be Rick and Dorothy Kerslake and Bea Graff. Their breakfast at Corbett's Fourth of July Fun Festival was a sell-out that left people begging for more.

Brunch will cost \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for children ages 12 to 6, and children under 6 are free. The menu includes all the breakfast goodies you can imagine, eggs, pancakes, bacon, sausage and ham as well as desserts and salads.

Proceeds will be shared equally between the three groups.

To get to the grange hall go to Corbett and go east on the Old Columbia River Highway past the fire station and uphill to Grange Hall or Littlepage roads. The Grange Hall is on the south side of the highway.

DUES ARE DUE...

If an envelope is attached to your newsletter, that means your annual dues are due. (Those of you who have already paid 1989 dues will not find an envelope. If there is a question call Joyce Stoeckel, membership secretary, at 665-0026.)

To pay the costs of the newsletter, the board agreed, effective Feb. 6, 1989, to raise annual dues to \$4 a person and lifetime memberships to \$100. If you are an affiliate member of the Oregon Historical Society you will receive a separate notice from them.

Please send your check or bring it to our next meeting. Membership cards will be returned with the next newsletter or will be available

IN MEMORY...

We are grieved to report the death of Curtis L. Kaiser, 33, due to leukemia. Curt was not known to many members of this society because he worked behind the scenes. A new college graduate with a degree in history, he came to us in 1982 to volunteer his services.

He subsequently did the research and documentation that resulted in placing the Harlow House on the National Register of Historic Places. He helped catalog and record the huge mass of material we received when Edgefield Manor closed in 1982. (And because he had a whimsical sense of humor, he cataloged his own freshly-drained Coke can in the museum collection.) He helped set up the displays in the depot museum. And in the last two years, sent out a round of grant applications that culminated in a gift of \$5,000 to our barn fund from the Collins Foundation.

The board of directors plans a gift to the endowment fund in his memory.

SPEAKING OF THAT FUND...

It is starting small, but our endowment fund is growing. In December the board of directors agreed that bequests from wills and other gifts so specified will go into a endowment fund to be held in trust with interest from the fund used to keep our museums open.

The result, the board agreed, will be a living fund that will contribute to the ongoing work of this society. Subsequently the board decided that memorial donations for deceased members, unless otherwise specified, also will go to the endowment fund. Since that decision was made we have received memorial gifts from Vera Strebin and Bob and Louise Dix for Jack Evans and from Alex Jones for Walt Ferch. In addition, Frank and Dot Packard sent a \$100 donation to give the fund a start and Helen Tiller sent \$50 in memory of her husband, A.D. (Bud) Tiller.

A COOKIE A DAY...

Here it is, the recipe for the cookie that was such a hit at our Christmas party:

JOYCE STOECKEL'S ALMOND COOKIE MICE

- 1 cup butter or margarine
- 1 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 2 teaspoons almond extract
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 1/2 cups flour

Mix butter and sugar with beater and add eggs and extracts. Gradually add flour. Cover and chill. Heat oven to 325 degrees. Shape rounded tablespoons of dough into balls, taper to a tear-drop shape and press on to a greased cookie sheet. (The tapered end will be the mouse's head, the more rounded part his rear.) Press in sides to raise backs of mice. Press in peanut halves for ears, pieces of raisin for eyes. Prick a one-inch deep hole with a toothpick in the backside for tail. Bake 9-12 minutes. Place on rack. Insert tails of string licorice while warm. Makes about 45 two-inch mice.

TIDBITS...

A calendar saved is a calendar that is good for this year, says Shirley Yost. She points out that the calendar of Troutdale historic

THE HISTORY OF ALFRED BAKER...

Shirley Yost wrote a history of her grandfather, Alfred Baker, for whom the big beech tree at the corner of Troutdale Road and Stark Street is named. As she points out, information on the brass marker there is not entirely correct.

ALFRED BAKER

Alfred Baker was born in Appanoose County, Iowa, July 22, 1858. He was left fatherless during the Civil War. His father, a Union soldier, was badly wounded and went home where he died from the injury. His mother struggled to keep the family together for nearly two years and then she also died. The children were in an orphanage for a while, but Alfred ran away.

An uncle in Nebraska took him in and he lived there for five years and then struck out on his own. He found employment with local farmers until 1874 when he went to Colorado.

In Pueblo, Colo., he drove stagecoach for two years. During this time he witnessed much of the seamy, and not altogether desirable, side of life. He left Colorado in 1876 and came to Oregon. He worked grubbing stumps in Portland on the ground that became the Portland Cemetery. After that, he worked for farmers which enabled him to earn enough money to start buying property for himself, 316 acres along the Columbia River in the Parkrose area.

He married Oceanna Holtgrieve on Dec. 24, 1879, and became the father of three children, Nellie, Emery and Ralph O. Baker.

In 1891 he bought 42 acres at the corner of Troutdale Road and Baseline (Stark Street.) He planted the copper beech as a corner marker. This farm was called the Melrose Farm. Alfred and Oceanna had about 60 milk cows and also raised produce which they hauled to Portland by team and wagon.

Between 1893 and 1902, the family lived in Portland and then on the Columbia River property and returning to the Melrose Farm in 1902.

In 1907, a calf stepped on Alfred's foot, but the injury did not heal and gangrene set in. His foot had to be amputated and did not heal. It was discovered he had diabetes and he had two more amputations. He died after the third operation.

His first and last ride in an automobile was when a neighbor, a Mr. Olson, took him to the hospital for his third operation. He never returned home. He died in the hospital at the age of 49.

Additional notes: When Bill Baker's and my grandparents lived on the Melrose farm, the Baseline (Stark Street) ended at Troutdale Road. Troutdale Road was not paved and was thick with dust, my father, Ralph O. Baker, said. People would ride out to the end of the Baseline, some in automobiles, from Portland. They would be hungry and thirsty and would want Grandma Baker to serve them a meal. She wouldn't do it as she had enough to do. However, she did sell them buttermilk. She made and sold butter as they had milk cows.

Ralph O. Baker said that the hill that goes up Stark Street by Mt. Hood Community College was called Baker Hill.

Bill Baker's and my uncle, Corbett Hopkins, and our Dad planted the maple trees that lined Stark.

All my brothers, my sister and I attended Cedar School...I was in the last graduation class of Cedar School in 1940. There were four of us who graduated that year, Ben Asakawa, Mieko Tamura, Carl Reed and me.

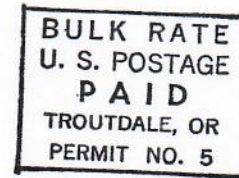
Editor's Note: Cedar School still stands on the east side of Troutdale Road between Stark and Division Streets. It is now the home

TROUTDALE'S FIRST JEWISH FAMILIES...

From David Bernstein of Southeast Portland comes a clipping from a Jewish historical magazine about Rabbi Mayer May who became a highly successful Jewish educator in San Francisco. May came to the Portland area from San Francisco because his brother, Emanuel, had cattle interests (the American Dressed Meat Company at Troutdale) and his sister, Frances Fox, (wife of first mayor Aaron Fox) lived in Troutdale. May became the rabbi of the Congregation Beth Israel in Portland in 1872.

NEWS FLASHES: ALEX JONES donated \$400 worth of paint and nails to complete the siding on the museum barn. He is much interested in seeing the barn a proper barn red as soon as possible. His gift, coupled with a previous donation of \$100, brings him into the ranks of \$500 donors. All donors of \$500 or more will have their names woodburned on the beams of the barn...We have received a book, "Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey," from the family of BEN and CHARLES WETHERILL of Maryland. Ben is the fellow who spent last summer helping us on the barn...This is the time to turn in Flav-R-Pak and Santiam labels. ARLINE SEIDL is one of our members who saves them for us. If you have labels, please call Sharon Nesbit, 665-0423...DONNA KLUEHE has loaned a fascinating collection of Indian dolls, bead work, pots, baskets and other materials for our quarterly display in the Harlow House. It can be seen any Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m, through May...A hearing on Edgefield Manor (and a discussion on whether or not to tear it down) will be held at 7 p.m. March 15 in Troutdale City Hall...BARBARA WELSH is a candidate for secretary of the society. All other officers are the same in our February election.

TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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TROUTDALE, ORE. 97060



Cancelled
A SWEETHEART
BRUNCH ON FEB. 12
AT CORBETT