

# BYGONE TIMES

A Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

February, 1996

Sharon Nesbit, Editor, 665-0423

## Our favorite road show: Historic Columbia River Highway

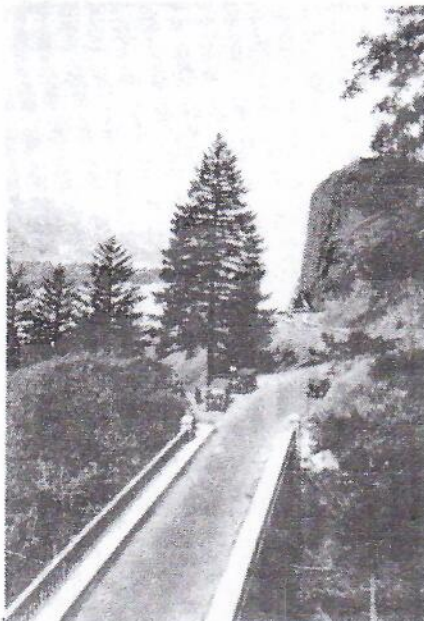
The annual meeting of the Troutdale Historical Society, -- where we elect officers and collect dues -- offers yet another view of our breath-taking road, the Historic Columbia River Highway. **Join us, 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 18, in Troutdale City Hall.**

Following Don Hunter's presentation last month, we have the perspective of Jeanette Kloos, scenic area coordinator for the Oregon Department of Transportation, the person who keeps track of the work of the advisory committee that determines how the historic highway is maintained and restored.

Kloos (whose name is pronounced close) brings us a slide show with copies of the original hand-painted glass slides of the highway in the 1920s, matched with pictures she has taken in the last eight years. She will talk about restoration of the highway and adaptive reuse of old parts of the roadway for hiking and biking paths, including the opening of the Mosier Twin Tunnels.

Kloos has worked nearly 20 years on highways, first for the Federal Highway Administration, now for Oregon. She is co-author of "A Study of the Historic Columbia River Highway - 1987."

As to other activities -- we observe the 28th anniversary of our founding. We elect officers (more about that on page 2) and we conduct our annual business meeting. If you have business for the good of the order, contact Ellen Brothers, 661-2164, to be on the agenda.



## CALENDAR

for February



**Feb. 3, Wed., 9 a.m.:** Barn storming exhibit committee in the barn.  
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**Feb. 7, Wed. 7 p.m.:** Troutdale Historical Society Board of Directors in the barn. All welcome.  
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**Feb. 8, Thurs., 6:30 p.m.:** Bingo, Glenn Otto Community Park.  
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**Feb. 12, Mon. 7 p.m.:** Steering Committee, planners of Harvest Faire and Ice Cream Social, in the barn.  
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**Feb. 15, Thurs., 6:30 p.m.:** Bingo, Glenn Otto Community Park.  
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**Feb. 18, Sun., 2 p.m.:** Annual meeting, Jeanette Kloos on Historic Columbia River Highway in Troutdale City Hall.  
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**Feb. 22, Thurs., 6:30 p.m.:** Bingo, Glenn Otto Community Park.  
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**Feb. 29, Thurs., 6:30 p.m.:** Bingo, Glenn Otto Community Park.  
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**Mar. 2, Sat., 9 a.m.:** Barnstorming exhibit committee in the barn.

## WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

If you owe annual dues, a dues/donation envelope is attached to this newsletter. If you are a lifetime member, or have paid your dues ahead, just relax.

Our membership categories are: \$8 for an individual; \$12 for a couple, \$20 for a family; or the Director's Club, which helps pay the costs of our director. That membership level is \$75 per couple or \$50 for individual and includes a lovely summer party just for Director's Club members.

Should you wish to give a little something extra, you may indicate a fund where your money is to be used. Our operating fund takes care of the general business of our society. Our barn fund is used for completing the barn and its exhibits. And the endowment fund is socked away in a fund, the principle untouched, and only the earnings to be used to run our society for years in the future.





**TREASURER'S REPORT**

FROM PENNY BALCH

OPERATING ACCT.....	\$ 9,407.85
DED. BARN FUND.....	616.53
BARN BUILDING.....	24,109.92
ENDOWMENT FUND...	21,210.64
DIRECTORS FUND.....	2,323.47
BINGO FUND.....	1,958.73
 TOTAL.....	 \$59,627.14

This report reflects the \$20,000 gift from the estate of John Nasmyth designated for the barn building fund and the creation of exhibits in the building, as well as \$21,210 in our endowment fund, money dedicated to the future of our society.

**GIFTS**  
**TO THE BARN**  
**FUND**  
 In memory of  
**Lois Dunkin**  
 Mike & Elaine Dubesa

**Baker, Mitchoff  
Officer material**

In Feb. 18 elections, Florence Baker, longtime Troutdale resident and dedicated volunteer, is a candidate for the board of directors position vacated by Len Otto.

Mona Mitchoff, leader of the steering committee which plans Harvest Faire and Ice Cream Social, will run for vice president, a post formerly held by Sharon Nesbit.

*Lifetime member Geraldine Harvey Morand died recently*

**LIONS RENEW  
BINGO PACT**

Bob and Mona Mitchoff will be co-managers of our Troutdale bingo game, each Thursday evening, 6:30 p.m. early bird games and 7 p.m. regular play.

The Troutdale Lions, previously in a four-way partnership in bingo, want to renew their interest in the game in a two-way partnership with us. The advantage of this is that we do not have to provide all eight volunteers each Thursday.

Our goal remains the same. We want a regular group of volunteers willing to commit to one Thursday night a month. If you can help, please leave a message with Ellen Brothers, 661-2164, or leave a message with the Mitchoffs at 666-5455.

**A LAST CHUCKLE  
FROM LOIS MITCHELL**

Among the friends of our society was Lois Mitchell, who had lived in Troutdale with her husband, Mike, since the 1940s, and died in January.

Though not a member of our society, Lois took care to share stories and artifacts about Troutdale, including a plastic calendar once given by the Troutdale General Store.

A month or so before her death, she told about a charge account at the Troutdale General Store. She said her husband believed that children wouldn't steal if they could buy candy and small treats after school, so the Mitchells opened a charge account for that purpose with Roy Meger.

"But then we forgot about it," she said. Months later one of the Mitchell children came home to report that the family was in debt to Roy for what was then a fairly large amount, about \$29. Roy had never said a word. Lois still remembered how embarrassed she was.

**Big plan  
for depot**

After months of kicking it around, talks with a consultant and developing a plan, the society's board of directors decided to establish a museum store in the waiting room of the Troutdale Rail Depot.

As you may be aware, the Troutdale Chamber of Commerce needed more room and moved out of the depot. The advantage of their presence was that they hosted our rail museum while they were in the office. We, in turn, staffed the building with volunteers on summer weekends to meet the needs of travelers for tourist information.

With the depot closed for the winter, we took a new look and realized that it is an ideal location for a museum store stocked with travel books, guides, maps and gorge lore. And we think other items relating to trout and trains, would be just the ticket. (Watch out for more train and travel puns as we develop this plan.) Suggested names, so far: End of the Line, Trout and Trains, Toots and Trout.

We need more space for a museum store -- the Harlow House table is crammed and unsightly -- so this approach holds promise and could be a moneymaker for our organization and -- we hope -- raise bucks to update our exhibit.

We are working with the goal of opening June 1. If you have advice to offer, or are willing to train as a volunteer, call Ellen Brothers, 661-2164.





## ***History of the Vegetable Shed by Alice Wand***

Those who were able to attend Alice Wand's excellent presentations this year and last on the history of the vegetable sheds along Troutdale's railroad tracks, and the vegetable growers who used them, appreciate her excellent research on the subjects. Alice knows whereof she speaks. Her husband, Ig, was closely involved in the business. Alice's parents grew flowers in the area. The following history is the text of a program she presented in November at the "cooler building," now converted to an antique mall in downtown Troutdale.

Remember last January's meeting in the old potato shed (now Caswell Gallery)? How exciting it was to see its use today. Now we are seeing an equally exciting use of the cooler building of the old vegetable shed.

In 1885 Alexander Lampert homesteaded 160 acres on top of the Bluff east of here. It was sometimes called Staggerweed Mountain or Cabbage Hill. Soon after, he strapped on his homemade backpack with his surplus eggs and butter. He walked down the steep trail, crossed the Sandy River on the old makeshift ferry, passed this area to go to Fairview where he bartered his wares for flour and sugar.

### **TRUCK FARMING CHANGES THE MARKET**

By the 1920s we had quite a change. More land was cleared by hand and with help of the 1900s forest fire. Trucks came into use. My husband talked about the old truck he drove to the East Side Early Market in Portland. He took peas, spinach, carrots, potatoes, lettuce and a wonderful new vegetable called cauliflower.

In the late 1920s farmers formed the Troutdale Cauliflower and Lettuce Association. George Chamberlain was the manager. One of our local farm boys was fortunate to graduate from Corbett High School and receive a degree in accounting from the Oregon State College. His first job was to set up the books for this association. His name was A.C. (Cab) Seidl.

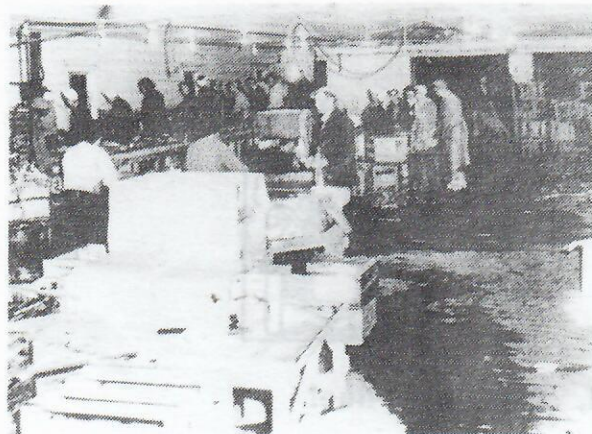
The railroad built the farthest end of the shed that is still standing, charging the association \$1 a year rent. In 1934, Ig, my husband, became the accountant. I have his old ledger listing 83 members, what they bought and what they sold. Some of the insecticides that were purchased were Cyanamid, arsenate of lead and Black Leaf 40, which is just nicotine. Now to use insecticides a farmer or horticulturist has to be licensed and attend a full day's seminar.

Lettuce was too perishable to be profitable. In the largest season, 163 box cars of cauliflower were shipped. I might add that there was a store in this shed where a farmer could buy anything he needed--seed, pea twine, fertilizer, etc. The cooler room used ice brought from Portland. The refrigerated railroad cars had to be iced every 200 miles by the railroad.

### **BOOM GOES OUT OF THE CAULIFLOWER MARKET**

By 1939 they lost their market because cauliflower was grown in areas much closer to the market. Also, large grocery stores wanted to buy from brokers.

In 1940, the farmers reorganized into the Troutdale Vegetable Growers. Jim Spence was president. It was at this time that Pete Binn became involved. In 1943, Pete tore part of the old cooler off and built the cooler where we are now standing. This building had a basement cooler where seed potatoes were stored. The huge coils we see on the east end of the building were filled with ammonia. They have now been converted to heat this building.



(TO BE CONTINUED IN OUR MARCH NEWSLETTER)



**namedroppers**

Our condolences to **Bob and Louise Dix**, whose daughter, Julie Bybee, and grandson were killed in a train-car accident in Pocatello, Idaho, over the holidays..Special thanks to **Kathleen Kenney**, who has had to give up her job as Kathleen, the Bingo Queen because of a move to Salem. She did fine work for us in the last six months...If you want to sponsor music or children's activities at Harvest Faire or Ice Cream Social, please leave a message at the Harlow House, 661-2164...Thanks to **Dale Farley**, Portland, who consulted with **Andy Collmer** on windows for Troutdale's historic church...And thanks to those who showed interest in Collmer's project by visiting during his Jan. 6 open house...And a lovely mention came to us in the January issue of *Seattle Magazine* sent by **Helen & Joanne Otto**. In a story on McMenamins' Edgefield, Sally Jo Bowman describes our society as "a small, but feisty local group" in an account of our effort to save Edgefield.

**DONATIONS**

For the Barn from June Nasmyth in memory of Maxwell and Doris Brothers

For the Endowment Fund from Mike and Elaine Dubesa in memory of Lois Dunkin, from Truly Wright and Donna Junker in memory of Georgia Mae Carow, from Helen Otto in memory of Julie Dix Bybee, from Vernon and Martine Rathman in memory of Lois Mitchell.

Welcome to new members Eldon and Jean Hepburn.

Marge and Ed Schmunk are the first to join the Director's Club for 1996. Thanks!

And thanks to Hilda Langston and Ed and Vera Ashley for the green stamps.

**TROUTDALE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
104 S.E. KIBLING STREET  
TROUTDALE, OR 97060**

**ADDRESS CORRECTION  
REQUESTED**

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

**Columbia River Highway  
Part Two**



**And, dues are due!**