



# BYGONE TIMES

Newsletter of the Troutdale Historical Society

March 2005

## Please Mark Your Calendars

### March Program

**Gary Lentz**

**First Contact**

*Sunday Mar. 20*

*2 p.m.*

*Troutdale City Hall*

### April Program

**Oral History Interview**

**Of Sharon Nesbit**

Program will be videotaped

*Sunday Apr. 17*

*2 p.m.*

*Troutdale City Hall*

### Annual Tea & Tour

*Saturday May 7*

*Two Seatings*

Invitations being sent  
mid march

### Annual Cemetery Tour

*Saturday May 21*

*Led by Stan Clarke*

### Ice Cream Social

*Saturday June 4*

*Mayors Square*

## GARY LENTZ COMES TO TROUTDALE IN CHARACTER AS PATRICK GASS, CORPS OF DISCOVERY MEMBER



The Troutdale Historical Society hosts Gary Lentz in a living history presentation of life as a member of Lewis & Clark's Corps of Discovery. **FIRST CONTACT** is his most popular program demonstrating the first meetings between the Corps of Discovery and the First people living in the Pacific Northwest. Methods of fire starting, food preparation, weapons, tools, and clothing are contrasted with the methods and items carried by Lewis & Clark such as steel traps, knives, mirrors, guns, wool cloth, and cooking utensils.

The presentation will be held Sunday, March 20, 2:00PM, at Troutdale City Hall (104 SE Kibling St.). THS regularly schedules educational history programs to stimulate interest in and knowledge of our locality's past. Cost is free and open to the public. Refreshments served.



A beautiful handmade Lewis and Clark quilt has been created and donated to THS to raffle this year. Thank you to **Mary Bryson, Judy Norby, Darleen Payne and Caroline Clift** for their generosity. Thanks also to **Sharon Nesbit and Jean Holman** for finding and donating the pattern. Raffle tickets will be for sale at events, programs/meetings and the depot throughout the year. Drawing will be held at this year's Christmas Open House.

## 2 A bit of Explaining from the Volunteer Director

Sheryl Maydew

This is large newsletter due to the fact that I was unable to produce one in Jan. & Feb. I was ill most of those months and fell behind in many things. I apologize for this and also because March's is late. The good news is that one of our new board members, Paula Goldie has stepped forward and offered to help produce and write the newsletter. We are very grateful to Paula and are sure with her help, we will be back on our monthly track with the April issue.

This month's insert is the dues statement and envelope for 2005 dues. For those that already paid dues for this year, please don't worry...if in doubt, call the office and talk to Heather, she's keeping good track of dues for us. 661-2164

## Native Plant Presentation

By Doneva Shepard

On an unseasonably warm, sunny, Sunday afternoon, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2004, Paul Slichter, Gresham High School Biology teacher and member of the Oregon Plant Society, presented slides and description, "Fauna, as seen by Lewis and Clark" during the Exposition of Discovery.

Meriwether Lewis was a Botanist and one of his jobs was to collect and document as many plants and flowers as possible. He did not name any of the plants; he simply collected and sent them to a Botanist named Hirsch who lived in Philadelphia, PA for identifying and naming.

He talked about how some of the plants got their name; for instance Salmonberry, named because they bloomed at the same time the salmon came.

We learned that some of our beloved plants, when found in other countries, are considered 'weeds', for instance; Oregon Grape, when found in China is like blackberry vines are to Oregonians.

At the Sandy River, Lewis found; Oregon grape and learned the roots can be used for yellow color or cold medicine. It eventually made its way to England and was very popular there, unlike in China.

An item of interest to those of us who have been 'stung' by a stinging nettle, he taught us that crushing the leaves and rubbing on the sting will remove the pain.

Lewis collected a total of about 240 plants during their time west of the mountain range that took them into Eastern Oregon. Once on the other side of the mountain there was a whole new set of plants and flowers to collect.

For those who missed this enlightening and stimulating presentation, you can go to Paul Slichter's website and view some of the gorgeous photos he presented at the November meeting:

<http://ghs.gresham.k12.or.us/science/ps/nature/gorge/views/directions.htm>

## TEA & TOUR PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY

Jean Hybskmann

Circle your calendar, **Saturday, May 7th, 2005**. In keeping with the celebration of the bi-centennial of Lewis & Clark's great journey, we chose to have our annual Tea and Tour at the barn museum where our **Quicksand & Condors** exhibit will be all around us to view and enjoy.

Guests at the Tea will be the first to see the last phase of the display finished and the exhibit completed. There will be the usual two seatings at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Invitations will go in the mail March 15. Watch for yours and reply soon as we always fill up quickly. If you haven't attended or received an invitation in the past and wish to join us this year, call our office and request the invitation. We have surprises planned. More info in next month's newsletter. THS office 661-2164.

### Troutdale Historical Society Business Sponsors

When you see them, please thank them. We appreciate their support.



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## Nechacokee Village (Nichaqwli) Presentation

3

On Sunday, February 20, 2005, nearly 100 people met in the Sam Cox Building at Glenn Otto Park in Troutdale, Oregon to learn about the Nechhacokee Indians. **Chuck Rollins**, a local historian related his fascinating story of rediscovering the site of an Indian village in what is now Blue Lake Park.

In 1977, Rollins was an employee of Multnomah County and worked at Ox Bow Park. He became interested in the history of local Indians and made arrangements at Blue Lake Park to look for signs of the Indian Village. On the day in 1977, when he visited Blue Lake, Multnomah County workers had just dug a large trench to help with drainage. As it happened, this trench went directly through the site of the Nechacokee Long House. Rollins and his friend, Charlie Ciecko explored the trench and found nearly 600 Native American artifacts, which included arrowheads, cobblestones, scrapers, and other tools. The two men realized that they had happened on a historically significant site and contacted Multnomah County and an archeologist. After properly mapping the site, Multnomah County recovered the trench and protected the site.

According to Rollins, nearly 600 Native Americans lived at the Blue Lake village prior to 1800. In 1804, when Lewis and Clark visited this village, only 30 Native Americans were left. The rest had been decimated by an earlier Small Pox epidemic brought by European explorers.

Rollins brought several trays of arrowheads he has collected over the years. They were on display for all who were interested to see. He also brought about 10 artifacts from the Nechacokee site that he passed around the audience. Most were small hand tools including scrapers and a pumice stone used for smoothing, much as sand paper is used today. Rollins pointed out how well the tools fit into one's hand. The size and shape of each tool coincided with its use.

According to Rollins, the nearly 600 artifacts found at the site were turned into Multnomah County. He is unsure where those artifacts are today.

A lively question and answer period followed Rollin's presentation. Many in attendance were interested in learning more about the local Native American populations. Rollins suggested that those interested should read *Lewis & Clark Among the Indians* and *Stone Age on the Columbia River*.

The Troutdale Historical Society certainly wishes to thank Chuck Rollins for donating his time and for sharing his expertise. All in attendance came away from the meeting with a greater understanding of the life of the early Native people of our area.

By Mary Bryson

**News from the Lewis & Clark exhibit committee:** Larry McClure, a local writer/educator has asked that we have the barn available for a meeting on April 9. The meeting is a planning session for about 30 committee heads from the National Lewis and Clark Historical Society...During the week of August 6, 2005, National Lewis & Clark Historical Society will hold a one week convention in Portland, with up to 600 people expected for this event. **Dan DeGraw** has completed the brochure design and is working on the remaining panels. **Jean Hybskmann** is getting the brochures printed. **Dr. Gurtisen** is looking for barn wood to use in completing the shelter. The committee is working hard to have the exhibit fully completed by April 9.

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When you see them, please thank them. We appreciate their support.



**Gary Christianson**  
Marketing Director  
(503) 667-4500  
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Nancy Cox, Jean Holman, Dorothy Sturges, Sharon Nesbit and Lois Schulte (far right).

**Lois Schulte**, former Troutdale and Sandy resident, celebrated her 90th birthday December 28, 2004 with champagne and friends at the Milwaukie Convalescent and Residential Center. Schulte, a former secretary, she was membership secretary of the Troutdale Historical Society where she and her late husband, Ted Schulte, were active. Because Ted Schulte was Troutdale's Santa Clause for many decades, she was recognized as Mrs. Santa. She also helped with the Troutdale Lions Club. She was surprised with a luncheon party and a gathering of friends and family, hosted by her daughter, Deanna Maugham. Born Lois Elaine Peck on December 26, 1914, in Dee, Oregon she attended schools in Hood River and Stevenson Washington, graduating from Stevenson High in 1933. She was one of seven children. Two sisters, Patricia Evans, 80, of Portland, and Laureen Gruble, 94, of Seattle Washington are still alive. She did secretarial work and was a bosses dream employee because she very rarely missed work, was a perfectionist with her jobs and was an excellent speller, said her daughter, who remembers her mother bringing work home just to have it in on time. She was employed by the city-county council on aging and Standard Insurance Company. She and Ted were married in Sandy on December 15, 1973. They lived during their 28 year marriage in Troutdale, Sandy and Gresham. He died in 2000. A stepdaughter, Dianne Janni lives in Kihei, Maui. Lois has three grandchildren, one great grandchild and three great great grandchildren. She's a member of the Catholic church, an avid reader and enjoys receiving and writing letters to friends and family period. Her secret to a long life, just take one day at a time.

## The Wind Break

By Muriel Walker

In 1998, Muriel Walker's family printed this book of her writings. Alice and Patricia Wand gave the book to the Troutdale Historical Society library. Muriel and Lisle Walker lived in the Corbett area in the 1940s and 1950s. Only an East County resident could write this thoughtfully about a windbreak. We have excerpted portions of it here. Muriel became a librarian, known to many children who went for her story hours.

Along the wire fence that marks the separation of neighboring farms, a thick row of interlocking fir and cedar trees stand, bracing one another against the fitful air currents. A division line put there in friendliness, but difficult for a human to traverse, it yet embodies a generous spirit of protection, and protection is often akin to friendliness. The very impenetrableness of the trees standing on the farm boundary fulfills the needed requirement, that of rebuffing the rudeness of strong wind.

...During the summer and autumn, as the fretful winds have blown futilely against the unflinching trees, their cargo of varied, tiny seeds lost the movement given them by the wind; and sifted down through the fir and cedar branches to lie quietly at rest on the ground. When snow flurries blow they do not reach the rich storehouse of food guarded so well by the silent, woven wall of thickness.

About and underneath the trees, the earth is a living carpet of ever-changing birds. At one minute numberless juncos, small snow birds, will be busily moving their smooth black heads in search for seeds...Other birds from the neighboring countryside join these, and a blanket of them is formed, a blanket of an incomparable design. They seek the sheltering branches and their hidden treasure, to stay there dry and warm.

The trees and the wind struggle together, for it is their business to do so. Nature always is guarding itself against itself, in a manner that is both complex and simple. Only the Divine Mind could formulate such far-reaching, all-comprehensive plans for living.

## Beaver Creek Bridge Update

THS received a library copy of the historical research done by Archaeological Investigations Northwest Inc. on the Beaver Creek Bridge. They are the firm that did the study of the bridge preparatory to restoring it and Sharon Nesbit helped them with some photos needed to determine its history. They sent a copy of the report to THS with the comment: The project was another plus for the preservation of historic resources in Troutdale.

The effort to turn the county around on this project—they originally set out to tear the bridge down and build a new one—was the work of David Ripma and Steve Lehl, with help from a historic roads expert named Dave Sells.





**Dorothy Klock**, corporate historian, artist and 4-H leader, died Monday, December 6, 2004, after a long battle with a memory-related illness that had her shut away from her active life for nearly a dozen years. She was 89. "We can't go anywhere without being asked if we are related to Dorothy Klock," said her niece-in-law, Beverly, when Klock was inducted into the 4-H hall of fame. Dorothy Klock lived from the horse and buggy era to the space age, growing up on what is now Wheeler Road in the Orient area. One of her early childhood recollections is that of her grandfather backing his wagon into the Sandy River during a smelt run and lowering the tailgate so that smelt filled the wagon bed. He would then take them home to his fields for fertilizer. History might describe Dorothy Klock as a homemaker but she took those skills, sewing, tailoring, knitting, small animal farming, community leadership, child rearing and crafts turning them into a lifetime of accomplishment and service. In her later years, they were the skills

that gave her a job with the Oregon State University Extension Service. "She had the ability to draw an absolutely unaffordable piece of clothing in a store window and then go home and tailor-make the same garment," said her nephew, Clair Klock. After serving on the Corbett school board in the 1960's and 1970s, she went to the archives and researched, wrote and printed an early history of the Corbett schools. The book was updated and reprinted in 2002 by Corbett historian Clarence Mershon. "It was a good history. If she had it down, you knew that she'd got it from the original document," Clarence Mershon said. As State President of Oregon's Home Extension Service, Klock shared her skills with others, writing knitting and sewing books and judging at county and state fairs, a task that allowed her to travel all over the northwest. An original member of Larch Mountain Country Artisans, she revived the craft of pine needle basketry in the 1980s created work that sold for top prices. She joked that she was attracted to trees for their fallen needles and could be found scouting for material in parks and arboretums.

Troutdale's **Carolyn Taylor**, the best friend a creek ever had died this past December at the age of 71. Carolyn, who lived on Beaver Creek and founded Friends of Beaver Creek in 1993, was Troutdale's Citizen of the Year in 2003. As citizen of the year, Carolyn was honored for her work in bringing fish runs back to the muddy and ignored creek and for her consistent presence on the Troutdale parks advisory committee. Carolyn was a long time member of the Troutdale Historical Society and for many years held the Depot museum open and helped run the museum store. We could always count on her at events like Ice Cream Social and Harvest Faire, where she usually set up shop with native plants to sell, raising money for her beloved Friends of Beaver Creek. "Carolyn was a true friend of Beaver Creek", said city councilor David Ripma. "And she was a true friend of Troutdale and what's best about Troutdale." Ripma, former president of the Troutdale Historical Society, noted that Carolyn was also a staunch worker for our organization and always there to help when asked.

Troutdale Historical Society lost a good friend February 27, 2005 in the death from pneumonia of **Carol Anderson**. Carol, and her husband, Dick, the long time mechanic at Handy Bros. Service, live across the highway from the Harlow House, were (and are) the best neighbors an old house can have. They are the eyes of the neighborhood, and the ears when the alarm goes off. For many years, they saw to it that the garbage can from the Harlow House was put out on the street in time to catch the garbage man. And once, they even adopted a kitten that showed up at the house. The Andersons have come to our parties when no one else would - (One night we held a dessert party and no one came so we had them come over and sample all the goodies) - They have loaned us their front yard for parking and their oven for extra cooking space. And for all that time they have exhibited fine good humor and the best traits of being a neighbor. We will miss Carol terribly and our sympathy goes out to Dick.

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# Our Thanks From THS For Your Support

Thank you to all who once again contributed to our end of the year donations plea. We received a little over \$1,200 in donations.

In 2004 we raised \$30,780 through fundraisers and donations and spent \$27,558 to maintain the museums and artifacts and operate the society. We will strive to again stay within our budget in 2005 and have budgeted to continue building some reserves for future large repairs and/or problems.

**Thank you** to **Mona Mitchoff, Barbara Welsh, Mary Bryson, Jean Holman, Heather Hutzinbiler, Sheryl Maydew, Mario Ayala.....**for their help in cleaning the Depot, Harlow House and Barn museums this past month.....also a huge thank you to Barb Welsh and Mona Mitchoff for their hard work clearing, pruning and weeding in the Harlow House gardens and thank yous to **Max Maydew, Mario Ayala and Sheryl Maydew** for helping them.

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Troutdale Historical Society

104 S.E. Kibling St.  
Troutdale, OR 97060  
Phone: 503-661-2164



**Mission Statement:**  
To gather, preserve and make available material relating to the history of the community of Troutdale, the Sandy River, the Columbia River Gorge and nearby area: To stimulate interest in, and knowledge of, the locality's past.

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