

Bygone Times

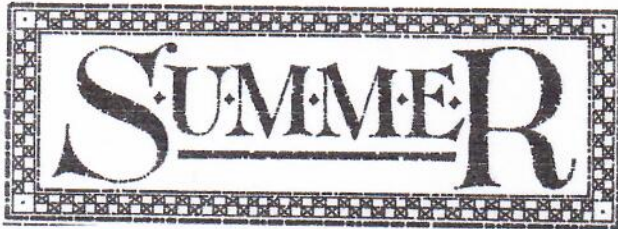
A Newsletter of The Troutdale Historical Society.



AUGUST, 1991

EDITOR SHARON NESBIT, 665-0423

SUMMERTIME...AND THE LIVING IS BUSY...



Though we do not conduct our regular program of meetings during the hot months, summertime is not vacation time in the museum business.

Those of you who volunteer in our depot and Harlow House museums, or who work on Barn Wednesdays know that it is Summertime..."And the livin' is busy."

AT LAST A ROSTER...

For some time, we have needed a roster of our members, another way to keep in touch and to figure out who's who.

Your copy comes with this newsletter. It was prepared by Cathy Moore of the Fairview-Rockwood-Wilkes Historical Society and Sharon Nesbit. It cost several hundred dollars to print and mail, so we enclose a donation envelope if you want to help.

The photo on the front is our beloved Alex Jones, former president of this society, who died July 7.

ABOUT ALEX JONES...

One of the most touching tributes for Alex comes from member Jeral Beaty who wrote: "I did not have the pleasure of knowing him, but I felt that I did through all your kindly references to the man..."

Alex tended to take a back seat at our meetings. He came early to start the coffee, sat in the back row and said little. An ex-officio member of our board of directors, he kept his comments for our board meetings and had a quiet school teacher's way of keeping us on track.

He raised the flag every day for more than 20 years for the City of Troutdale, his adopted town. He gave us the money for the paint for our barn saying, "I want to see it red before I die."

It gave him great satisfaction to put the first and last brushloads of paint on the barn.

His death was not a surprise. He and we have known that his congestive heart failure was irreversible. But he lived his 87 years completely. He was on his way to the Farmer's Market with his best buddy Sam Cox when his body began to give out. He died the next morning.

Efficient in all things, he outlined his own memorial service and prepared it ahead of time. Sam and Nancy Cox found his funeral clothes hanging on the closet door with a note: "These are my funeral clothes. I have put in two ties. You pick which one."

It is no surprise that a man as organized as Alex would continue to remember us. In accordance with his will, this society will receive one-third of his cash assets.

We will miss him terribly, but it will not be possible to forget him.

AN EVENING AT THE BEALEY MILITARY ACADEMY BY VIRGINIA EDDY

Editor's Note: Recently, Virginia Eddy, Portland, called seeking information on the Bealey Military Academy. The academy for boys began in Troutdale in 1924, in a former womens' institution, The Cedars, on Multnomah County Farm property. Located near the present dog pound, it operated 7 years and closed in The Depression. The building that Mrs. was dismantled, its lumber used for the duplex at the county farm.

"When I was 16, I was invited to one of the small dances at the Bealey Military Academy. An invitation to a dance there was "catching the brass ring" for any teenage girl of the day.

The cadets were elegant and handsome in their bright cerulean blue uniforms and their high leather polished-to-a-mirror boots. Two cadets were waiting on the expansive veranda as we drove up the circular driveway to assist us out of the car--another to escort us into the beautiful crystal chandelliered ballroom. There was a live band playing popular dance music of the day.



We were introduced to Major and Mrs. Bealey and then given little silk-tasseled dance programs. It was a moment of glory for me as handsome cadets quickly filled my entire program.

French doors to the formal dining room were open and maids stood behind a white linen-covered long table filled with refreshments to delight young people. The three maids were in black dresses with tiny, white organdy aprons.

It was an exciting and beautiful and wonderful experience and I have never forgotten the above-mentioned impressions. I became friendly with three of the cadets, my special one was Ray Ross, the oldest boy there. He was an ancient 18. He was the one who drove the Bealey Military Academy van when they would have free time. In Portland I would arrange dates with the other cadets with school friends and we would all go to the movies or private parties.

I continued my correspondence and friendship with Ray Ross until another cadet, Fred Biddie, introduced me to Donn Eddy whom I later married.

With the usual youthful and careless disregard for others, I abruptly stopped answering his letters and calls and even ignored the engraved invitation to commencement exercises. I am 80 now and if Ray Ross were still living he would be 83. I have a snapshot of him...he is in uniform and the archaic lines of the car in the background attest to the date, circa 1927."

Mrs. Eddy notes that the Federal Colonial mansion was The Cedars where her father, Dr. S.M. Gellert, Portland health officer in 1912, was the consulting physician for the women in the home. She added that Major Bealey had stable facilities not only for the academy's own horsemanship curriculum, but space to rent for other horseowners. The family that invited Eddy to the dance was named Chatten and boarded their horse there. Helen Chatten was Eddy's school chum.

D & D MANUFACTURING, 302 NE 2nd St., Troutdale, is a business member

SO WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?...

Our 23rd annual ice cream social, stretched to two days, earned nearly \$3,000. More than 120 volunteers--too many to list here--worked on it. We served more than 1,100 people ice cream over the two days. We ran out of ice cream three times. Our special thanks to Reynolds Metals, Tamura, Townsend and Jim Fujii farms, and Maria Vaughan who provided the fashion show.

Committee chairs were JEAN HOLMAN, HEIDI WILSON, LYNDA HARVEY, JACK & BETTY KNIGHT, DOROTHY STURGES, SADIE RILEY, DONNA KLUEHE, BARBARA WELSH, MIKE & PAULINE MORROW, SHARON NESBIT and MARGE SCHMUNK.

We sold about 425 hamburgers in our booth at the Troutdale picnic. Thanks to our volunteers: GEORGE & CAROLE KLINGER, MIKE DUBESA, TOM & CECE PAVLIK, BOB & JOAN RITTEL, TOM DOTY, DONNA BLANC, ED ASHLEY, TED SCHULTE, JACK & BETTY KNIGHT and JEAN HOLMAN and DOROTHY STURGES, who were in charge of the booth.

DICK JONES built the new booth, set up by SAM COX and FRANK DRIVER. SHARON & BILL NESBIT and HEIDI WILSON did advance work. WARREN & TIFFANY NESBIT provided the car and drove NANCY COX, our member of the year, in the parade.

A week later we worked at the Sandy River Blues Event of Windjam. Thanks to coordinator HEIDI WILSON as well as PHIL WILSON, SAM & NANCY COX, MARGE & ED SCHMUNK, SHARON NESBIT, JEAN HOLMAN and SUE & GREG HANDY. A special thanks to JANET RENFRO, Windjam coordinator, who saw to it that local groups were involved in the event this year.

MOVING ON TO HARVEST FAIRE...

Heidi Wilson, 667-9900, is chairwoman of Harvest Faire, Sept. 28 and 29 at Troutdale City Park.

Here are the highlights and where you can help:

1. An antique show and sale, followed by a mini-auction of donated antiques will be in Great Hall. On Saturday, Bob Rau of "The Collectors" will make an appearance to talk and sign his book. Know someone who wants to rent a table at this event? Call Heidi, 667-9900.

2. We have room for 40 craft booths, or booths for fall produce and flowers. Call Jean Holman, 665-7678.

3. Will you have cornstalks, straw bales, pumpkins or fall flowers for decorating? Call Cindy Hammond in Vancouver, (206) 892-6379.

4. Do you have a pioneer craft or skill you could demonstrate for a few hours at the Harlow House or could you be a host at the house or barn? Call Dorothy Klock, 695-5213.

5. Can you bake a pie for our pie sale? Call Sharon Nesbit, 665-0423.

6. Can you work in our food booth or a historical society sales booth? Call Dorothy Sturges, 665-4896.

AT THE HARLOW HOUSE...

The best leftovers from the ice cream social are the fine exhibits still on display in the Harlow House through fall. Don't miss Charles Bishop's miniature wagon exhibit, recently featured in The Oregonian. Donna Kluehe set up a wonderful farm-related exhibit, emphasizing Troutdale-grown products. She also prepared a new exhibit on sewing notions and spruced up our Oregon Trail display. And Lynda Harvey has created a display of farm toys that delights a lot of big kids.

Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Members are always admitted free.

IN MEMORY...

EILEEN LINDSAY, a volunteer host in our depot museum, died in June. Her husband, Ed, continues his work there and is the fellow who made us the sound track of train noises.

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WISHING LYNDA WELL..

Lynda Harvey, our Harlow House host and curator, has resigned to concentrate on her work as a bookkeeper. Her summer replacement is Katie Barker, a Reynolds High School student.

There is no way to thank Lynda for her devotion to a job that paid so modestly. Her considerable skills and her enthusiasm will be missed. The good news is that she remains with us a volunteer.

NAMEDROPPERS....

Welcome to new members CARLA & RAY ROBERTSON, Portland; ALI PERET, our downtown Troutdale jeweler; and LILLIAN FREESE of the Pomeroy House in Washington...FRANK & FLORENCE HARDIE have moved to 1280 Kane Road, #62, Gresham, 97030...Which reminds us--if you plan a move please send us your change of address as the newsletter is bulk mail and not forwarded...Is there anyone out there with a little plot of ground who would volunteer to grow pumpkins next summer for next year's Harvest Faire?...Extra garden hose is needed at the Harlow House. If you have some to donate, please leave it there on the porch with a name and address so we can say thanks...The DAVID DOUGLAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY recently visited the Harlow House, barn and Depot museums...RUTH DAVIS volunteered to make padded hangers for our clothing exhibit and also donated all the materials.

GIVE US A HAND ON BARN WEDNESDAYS...

Though Dick Jones and Bill Stone can be found there almost every Wednesday, our Barn Wednesday workdays are the first and third Wednesdays of the month. The batts are going up on the barn. The trim is on. Paintings needs doing. If you can help out, just show up at 9 a.m. on Aug. 21, Sept. 4 and 18, Oct. 2 and 16.

TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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