

# Bygone Times

A Newsletter of The Troutdale Historical Society.



OCTOBER 1993

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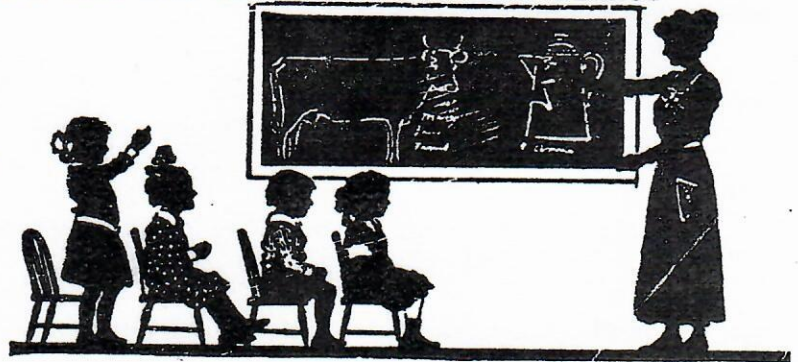
## OLD TIMES, OLD FRIENDS, OLD SCHOOL TIES...

Our first regular meeting of the fall season will be our Troutdale School Reunion, an evening of food and reminiscence in the annex of the Powerstation Pub, McMenamin's Edgefield, beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Monday evening, Oct. 18--that's the old county poor farm for all you old-timers.

(Come a little early if you would like time to stroll through the Main Lodge to see its conversion to a bed and breakfast inn and dinner house.)

We plan a no-host dinner, followed by introductions around. We will pick on the spot a panel representing each decade and ask a few questions about the school and the memorable folks they knew.

This is Troutdale Historical Society day at the Powerstation, with 25 percent of all proceeds going to the society. So any food and drink purchased at the Powerstation that day (it opens at 11 a.m.) will benefit our society. Plan on lunch, snacks, dinner, and a bedtime snack there as well. It all adds to our coffers, thanks to the kindness of the McMenamin staff and Mike and Brian McMenamin.



## SO HOW DID WE DO AT HARVEST FAIRE?...

Because of time constraints, this newsletter is being prepared prior to Harvest Faire and we only wish we had a crystal ball.

However, it is easy enough to predict the popularity of Tad's Chicken N' Dumplings, which has been an integral part of every Harvest Faire, and was left off our list of sponsors in last month's newsletter. Harvest Faire is the way the Tad's staff and Judy Jones help us out each year and we owe them much for their loyalty and their contribution, which includes time, energy and dollars. You can't ask for more.

Results on Harvest Faire next month.

## ABOUT OUR NOVEMBER MEETING..

On Monday evening, Nov. 15 (pardon the incorrect date in a recent newsletter) we gather at Troutdale City Hall at 7:30 p.m. to celebrate the acceptance to the National Register of Historic Places of the old Methodist Episcopal and later, Presbyterian, church in downtown Troutdale.

Our society will present owners Andy and Jeanine Collmer with a plaque telling the history of the old building and we will tape an oral history from those who attended the church or participated in its events. Please be there if you can add a tidbit about the church's history.

Also remember to keep Saturday afternoon, Dec. 11, on your calendar. That's our Harlow House Christmas celebration.

TROUTDALE SCHOOL WORKERS REMEMBERED...

Three members/friends recently died. All were part of the "gang" at Troutdale School.

Ethel Peterson, 86, died in September in Klamath Falls at the home of her daughter, Alice Fuller. Ethel moved to Troutdale in 1942 with her husband, who was known as "Pete." A longtime member of our society, she was a cook at Troutdale School. For many years she made the afghans we raffled off at the ice cream social. Her family listed our historical society for memorial contributions.

Dena Smith, who worked for the Reynolds District as a bus driver, and was also a former city councilor, died in September at the age of 79. She, too, moved to Troutdale in 1942. Her husband, Edward, died in 1970.

Finally, Harriett Payne, 76, died in early September. She was married to Dr. Oscar Payne. They moved to Troutdale in 1963 where she was a pastor at the Presbyterian Church. She was a school teacher and was school secretary at Troutdale.

OUR MOST RECENT TREASURER'S REPORT....Treasurer Lynda Harvey

ENDOWMENT FUND.....	\$ 13,398.41
OPERATING ACCOUNT.....	11,576.35
DEDICATED BARN FUNDS.....	416.53
BARN BUILDING FUND.....	11,831.61
DIRECTOR'S FUND.....	3,729.82
GRAND TOTAL.....	40,952.72

GIFTS FOR THE BARN...

Florence Baker made a donation for the barn. She and her husband, Bill, long ago earned a place on the barn beam...from Elice Swanson Skirvin came a check more than sufficient to place the name of her parents, George and Cecile Swanson, on the barn beam, as well as her own.

With it came charming reminiscence: "When I was about four years old our family moved to the 'railroad house' that was at the bottom end of 'Hungry Hill,' across from the 76 Service Station. My father was a signal maintainer for the Union Pacific for the major part of his adult life. I believe the house has now been replaced by the new outlet store complex. We lived there during the years of World War II and many hours I spent looking out the window at the troops being sent back and forth up and down the tracks. Later, we moved to the house on the upper corner of the Halsey intersection where Malcoms had first started their gladiola farm. We lived there until I was a sophomore in Gresham High School, (then 'Gresham Union'). My younger brother, Wayne, and I both traveled the distance to Cedar School in our primary years. My older brother, George, and sister, Melva, also attended local schools. My mother delivered rural route mail for a time out of the local post office and served as PTA president while we were there (probably several times.)

"I really enjoy the newsletter, and even though I live way up north, I still consider the days by the Sandy River as some of the best ever." Elice Swanson Skirvin, Seattle, Washington.

AND A GIFT TO THE MUSEUM...

Our friends at the Crown Point Country Historical Society always remember us. Donna Anderson won a whiskey bottle at that society's July 4 raffle and gave it to the Harlow House. Our new treasure is a Jesse Moore (circa 1900) and was found 25 years ago at Bridal Veil.

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IN MEMORY...

We have received donations in memory of the late Ig Wand from CRYSTAL BAYLEY, JEAN DRIVER, LORRAINE BLIVEN, BILL & SHARON NESBIT, DALE & JEANETTE PINHEIRO, GENEVA KELLOGG, GAYLE CLOFFY & FAMILY, THE GENFT FAMILY, IDA KLINSKI, PAUL & JUDY BACHMAN and GLENDA KLEIN & FAMILY.

From EDWIN & MARIE ARNOLD came a gift in memory of Florence Baker's mother, Jessie Sandiforth.

Memorials for Dena Smith came from SUE DAVIS and EDNA ALEXANDER.

AND THANKS...

To Roy Meger and Elsie Simnitt at the Troutdale General Store for another donation, the accumulated change that comes to the Harlow House donation jar on their counter.

To Jack Malcom, who donated flowers for the Sept. 12 memorial service for Mabel Wood. And to Bateman-Carroll Funeral Chapel for the lovely marker for Mabel's grave site. And to Homer Townsend, who coordinated the event, putting a tidy finish to an exemplary life.

And thanks to all those new friends who joined us for our September Trek to Crates Point, Kahneeta and the Museum at Warm Springs.

DID YOU KNOW...

Did you know that our society is participating with the Fairview Rockwood Wilkes Society and especially with Dick Jones in creating an organization called the Friends of the Zimmerman House?

The Zimmerman house is a remarkable Victorian farm house at Northeast 171st and Sandy Boulevard. Its last resident, the third generation of her family to live there, was Isobel Zimmerman. She gave the house to the Fairview Rockwood Wilkes society and that group is spinning off a subsidiary organization to care for and restore the home and to display its remarkable contents.

The house, which is being occupied and cared for by caretakers, is a time capsule of more than a century of a single family. The plan is to incorporate it and the small acreage it sits on into the City of Gresham park system.

If you would like to be in on the beginnings of Friends of the Zimmerman House, call Dick Jones, 252-4306, and ask him to put you on the mailing list.

WANT TO BE ON THE GOODIE LIST?

Since everyone knows we are a society that travels on our stomachs, consider signing up on the famous Goodie List. We need volunteers to bake cookies for our November 15 meeting, our Jan. 16 meeting and our March 20 meeting. If you can help, telephone Ellen Brothers at the Harlow House, 661-2164.



JIM & RETHA BENNETT OF SANDY RIVER ORCHARDS are business members of our society and help support our newsletter.

And our newest Harlow House neighbor is the Columbia Gorge RV Park on the Sandy River at the former Troutdale Sand and Gravel location. The telephone number is 665-6722. If you have friends coming to the area in their RVs, this is a handy place for them to park. (Pssst, tell them to visit the Harlow House.)

CONTINUING OUR HISTORY OF TROUTDALE...

(The last segment concluded with Capt. Harlow's death in 1883 and his widow platting the new town.)

"Although there has been a depot at Troutdale since the building of the (rail)road, the town which now has a population of over 300 is little more than a year old and has mostly been built during the past three months," wrote Troutdale Champion editor W.D. Pratt on Oct. 29, 1891.

The major industry of the town was the American Dressed Meat Co., a slaughter and packing house, built near the railroad and the Sandy River. By 1893 the slaughter house employed nearly 100 men. Because its owners were Jewish, a rabbi was present on certain days for kosher kills. Other industries that rose in the new community were a lumber mill, a hotel and a distillery. The distillery burned, in what was reported to be a "bright blue flame," in the 1890s.

By the turn of the century, the town was wide open with "a saloon on every corner and one in the middle." Aaron Fox was instrumental in incorporating the city as the Town of Troutdale in 1907 and became its first mayor. The chief reason for incorporation appears to have been the necessity to exercise some controls over the saloons. The first city ordinances dealt almost exclusively with problems at the drinking parlors. Stiff license fees of \$400 were required of each saloon (there were six or seven) so it was not necessary for the city to levy a tax.

The saloons got a boost in patronage in 1911 when workers built the new county poor farm on what is now Halsey Street west of Troutdale. The bricklayers from the poor farm project and the meat cutters from the slaughter house met each Saturday night for "knock-down drag-outs" on Columbia Street (the Historic Columbia River Highway.)

TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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TROUTDALE, ORE. 97060

BULK RATE  
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OCTOBER 18 IS  
TROUTDALE HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY DAY AT  
MCMENAMIN'S  
POWERSTATION--  
EAT, DRINK AND  
MAKE HISTORY

