



BYGONE TIMES

A Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

February, 1995

Editor, Sharon Nesbit, 665-0423

NATURAL HISTORY:

HISTORY WITH FUR AND FEATHERS ON IT

The critters we share this country with and the ones our ancestors met are the subject of a natural history talk by Deb Scrivens at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 19 in Troutdale City Hall.

Scrivens is education program coordinator for Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces, a long title for the woman who tells us about salmon at Oxbow Park and counsels local residents when bears get their goats.

This meeting marks the 27th anniversary of the founding of the Troutdale Historical Society. Since it is our annual meeting, we will collect dues, elect officers, conduct business and have some birthday cake.

But for fun we will hear Scrivens talk about animals. A Sandy River resident who is married to a park ranger, Scrivens began her career at 17 in the Youth Conservation Corps. She majored in environmental education in college and has worked on an archeological dig in New Mexico, a fish hatchery in Pennsylvania and on a "sugarbush" in Vermont using draft horses and a sled to collect maple sap.

For 10 years she has taught us about our landscape and the creatures with whom we share this spot in the world. This program is a great one for the whole family. Bring children and grandchildren.

The business of our society will be conducted Feb. 19

At our election, Feb. 19, the following candidates, President David Ripma, Vice-president Sharon Nesbit and board members Mike Dubesa, Len Otto and Dick Jones have agreed to run for reelection.

Lynda Harvey, treasurer, and Helen Towsley, secretary, will not seek reelection.

Nominating chairman Bob Strebin says Jean Holman is a candidate for secretary and Penny Balch has agreed to run for treasurer.

Jean Holman is a longtime volunteer and was honored several years ago as Member of the Year. Penny Balch is a Harlow House host, who recently created a tourism brochure for us. She just finished taking her test to be a Certified Public Accountant.

Remembering Johnny-Get-Wood



John Nasmyth, loyal, devoted member, died Jan. 18.

In the front seat on treks, the front row at meetings and at the top of the list of barn donors, his eulogy is on Page 3.

PLANS SET FOR 3-DAY TREK JOHN DAY AND MORE IN MAY

Our longest trek ever, but you asked for it. Members who enjoy our trips to historical spots have bugged us to organize a jaunt to John Day.

We got a map and talked to the bus people and worked out a list. You can get there from here, but it will take three days, so start planning now.

The dates are May 5, 6 and 7. We leave Troutdale City Hall Friday morning, traveling up the gorge and through wheat country with stops at the Condon museum and the John Day Fossil beds before settling down for two nights in the Sunset Motel at John Day.

Good news, there's a pool.

The next day we tour museums in John Day, Prairie City and Canyonville, concluding with a prime rib feast and a local speaker at the Sunset Motel on Saturday night. On Sunday we strike north over a scenic road ending in Pendleton for a tour of the Pendleton Underground. Then a nice Sunday afternoon nap while our air-conditioned, comfy bus takes us back to Troutdale.

To remain economical and streamlined, we included only one meal, the prime rib dinner. Other meals are at your own cost and we allow plenty of time to find what suits you.

The cost, \$200 a person based on double occupancy, includes transportation, lodging, admissions and one dinner. Sign up now, 661-2164.



THE DIRECTOR

Ellen Brothers Says:

What a great Christmas Eve at the Harlow House! We were visited by Bill Harlow, a former Gresham resident now living in Temple Terrace, Fla., and his family.

Bill will be sending us his Harlow family history after he returns to Florida.

We need a new printer for our office work. Our NEC Pinwriter is temperamental at best and it has become very difficult to print labels for our newsletter and other large mailings. If you can help out with either equipment or dollars, we'd be very happy.

And thanks. Requests in last month's newsletter were answered. Roberta and Jack Burns donated a coffee pot for the barn -- no more trekking across the dark yard with scalding coffee -- and a typewriter (with a built-in memory) for our secretary.

Betty Baldwin got our message about the spinning wheel and has donated a wheel for demonstration purposes in the house.

NUMBERS FROM OUR TREASURER

Linda Harvey reports the following funds in our accounts as of Dec. 31:

OPERATING ACCT.....	\$ 8,396.14
DED. BARN FUND.....	616.53
BARN BLDG ACCT.....	4,580.69
DIRECTOR FUND.....	696.17
ENDOWMENT FUND....	17,665.60
TOTAL.....	\$ 31,955.13

Needed : A four-drawer file cabinet for the barn. Call 661-2164.

Your Dues: WHERE DO WE SPEND OUR \$?

The last time your board members scratched their heads and tried to figure out where all the money goes, Treasurer Lynda Harvey came up with these kinds of costs.

Consider this when you pay dues this month. For natural gas and electricity for both buildings, our cost is \$442 annually and that does not count oil bills for the Harlow House furnace. A full year of operation of the barn next year should substantially increase utility costs.

To send 11 newsletters a year, it now costs \$1,800 for production and postage. We spend \$800 a year adding historic photos to our library and buying materials to maintain our archives. We are sorry that it is necessary to increase our dues this year but the increase in postal fees and other costs makes it necessary.

Our new dues schedule is as follows:

- \$8 - Individual**
- \$12 - Couple**
- \$20 - Family**

Director's Club membership costs, which help pay our director, Ellen Brothers, will remain the same. A note about the director's club: Lifetime members do not receive a dues envelope and therefore get no invitation to be a part of our director's club, which includes an added benefit of a lovely summer party. If you want to join dues are:

- \$50 - Individual**
- \$75 - Couple**

Lifetime membership fees of \$100 will be eliminated on Feb. 19.

The bottom line: If you have a payment envelope attached to this newsletter, then you owe dues. Any extra dollars to help with expenses would be appreciated.

NAME DROPPERS

Mike & Cathy Hamme donated the tree we saw at the Harlow House Christmas...and you may see it in the Director's Column, but it is worth saying again, **Roberta & Jack Burns** gave a coffee pot for the barn, as well as a very nice typewriter... **Betty Baldwin** gave us a spinning wheel for demonstration purposes...**Pat Ehr** volunteered to review our collection of Oregon Historical Quarterlies for references to Troutdale. Thank you, Pat...Our newest volunteer, a gift who came to visit us at the Harlow House Christmas, is a high school junior named **T.J. Kimzey**, a quick study who is already working as a Harlow House host...**Don McGinnis** is getting acquainted with his job as Harlow House chair. Want to help him? Give him a call at 665-4071...**Karen Burger-Kimber** attended a seminar for us and outlined a program to use in fund-raising...**Dick Jones** will be on disabled list because of a shoulder injury that needs surgery...Thanks to **Bob & Vera Strebin** for being nominating committee chairs...**Carolyn Taylor** is a member of our sales committee and will inventory stock this month...**Jean Holman, Ellen Brothers, Dorothy Sturges** and **Nancy Cox** provided cookies last month for the John Nasmyth funeral...And **Roy Meger & Elsie Simnitt** always deserve our thanks for selling our T-shirts at the Troutdale General Store...how about **Alice Wand & Connie Purvis** who organized our gathering at Caswell Galleries, an event that drew 80 people. Wow. Alice is taping her remarks on the history of the building for our files. Thank you to **Rip Caswell** for inviting us...**Joyce Stoeckel** prepares and mails this newsletter each month.

**In Memory of
John Nasmyth**

Born: May 24, 1916, Troutdale, Or.
Died: Jan. 18, 1995, Clackamas, OR.

At the funeral service on Jan. 24, President David Ripma, president of the Troutdale Historical Society remembered this quote from John about growing up in Troutdale and living through a gorge winter: "I was 10 years old," John Nasmyth once said, "before I realized my name wasn't Johnny-Get-Wood."

In the absence of Sharon Nesbit, Dave Ripma read a eulogy prepared by Nesbit. Excerpts are below:

John Nasmyth was a practical man. He never minced words when he talked about death—even his own.

Once, trying to speak delicately, I mentioned John and his wife, Winnie.

"After he lost Winnie," I said.

"Hell," John interrupted, "I didn't lose her. She died."

You could say the same about John. He has died. But we haven't lost him.

John Nasmyth was born and raised in Troutdale with a passel of brothers and sisters. Since he became part of the Troutdale Historical Society, he has deposited memories, stories and photographs against the day when his voice would end.

We know how his family sang together at night. We learned how you could insulate your house against the East Wind by throwing water on the wall to freeze. We know that kids searched the grass in front of city hall after Saturday night dances looking for coins dropped from the pockets of the careless.

"Careless, hell," John would say, "They were drunk."

Because he was a good story teller and somewhat of a rascal, John's stories always came with a wink and untarnished by false propriety.

Perhaps the most bull-headed in a long line of bull-headed Nasmyths, he would argue you into the ground about the route of the Barlow Trail or some other historical point.

But Nasmyths also come equipped with a great concern for taking care of the past. As clearly as

they can see back, they can also see ahead.

Long ago, John, a retired highway department worker, became committed to building our barn museum. He would walk up, slip a piece of paper in your pocket, grin and walk away. Another \$1,000 check for the barn. (This newsletter is being written on a computer donated by John and June Nasmyth.)

We often regret that only hindsight is 20-20. How glad we are now that we took the opportunity last November to honor John and June. We held a dinner and an event we called a premature eulogy in the loft of the barn, a space named for John.

John had asked me to do his eulogy when he died. We decided that no one would rather hear it than John, so we did it while he could be present. John and June had a wonderful time. We told how they found each other at a historical society meeting -- how they celebrated their wedding with us.

They brought fun and enthusiasm, encouragement and a huge capacity for joy. It will be hard to conduct another trek without John in the front seat...John always brought "a little something extra" in a pocket flask to Harlow House Christmas, spiking the punch cups of the kitchen ladies in pinafores. You knew he was there because of the laughter and the giggling.

Sam Cox once said after Alex Jones died, that he didn't want any more old friends because of the pain of losing them. But John Nasmyth was worth the knowing. He's dead. But we didn't lose him.

"Herb and Walt Nasmyth and their families wish to express sincere appreciation for the kindness, thoughtfulness and sympathy we received from all the members at John's funeral service. Special thanks to Dave Ripma for reading Sharon's paper remembering highlights of John's association with the historical society. Also special thanks to all the "Cookie bakers" and Ellen Brothers for her help."

The Nasmyth Families.

From Jeanne & Frank Driver: How glad we are that we attended the potluck that gave honor to John and his wife. He got to hear the words before he left us.

June Sherman Nasmyth requests that memorials to John go the barn fund.

In memory:

Two former Troutdale City Council members died in recent months. **Tex Blackwell** died in December. **Frank Kaiser** died in January. Former Outlook publisher **Lee Irwin** died in January. His family suggest donations to our society.

GIFTS:

TO THE BARN FUND IN MEMORY OF **JOHN NASMYTH:**

Frank & Jeanne Driver
Lola Lumsden
Helen Otto
John & Mary Lou Sherman

TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND IN MEMORY OF **LEE IRWIN:**

Helen Otto

TO THE GENERAL FUND:

Roy Meger & Elsie Simnitt,
Troutdale General Store
Bill Harlow

AND THERE WILL BE NO TEST LATER

Want to catch up on Troutdale history?

Sharon Nesbit will give an hour-long local history talk followed by questions and answers at the Harlow House on Sunday, April 30, beginning at 2 p.m. You might mark your calendars since that also is the date of our Spring Brunch in Sam K. Cox Hall in the park. Plan to attend the brunch and then go to the house for the talk.

ABOUT THOSE RABBITS

Bill Stone called in response to the article on a burlap bag from Lowit's Blueblood Rabbitry. He believes it was at the northwest corner of Halsey and 201st Avenue. The owner, J. Cyril Lowit, was on the school board with Bill's father, W.E. Stone.

HELP WANTED: Cookie bakers for our March 19 meeting. Call 661-2164.

CENTURY FARM NOMINATIONS DUE

The Oregon Historical Society seeks applications for the 1995 Century Farm program to honor Oregon's "first families" for keeping and working farms generation to generation.

To qualify a Century Farm must have been operated continuously in the same family for 100 years or more, have a minimum annual gross income, and meet certain other minor requirements.

Qualifying applicants receive a certificate and the right to post a Century Farm sign. For applications or information, telephone Ron Brentano, coordinator, Century Farm Program, Oregon History Center, 1200 SW Park Ave., Portland, OR 97215, telephone 306-5215.

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



*Deb Scrivens Talks
About the Animals
Feb. 19, Troutdale City Hall*

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