

# Bygone Times

Newsletter of the

**Troutdale Historical Society**

**October 2007**

## **Please Mark Your Calendars**

### **October Events**

**Oct 2**

*Ribbon cutting ceremony at the  
Barn Museum for new exhibit  
9:00 a.m.*

**Oct 6**

*Troutdale School Reunion at the  
Barn Museum  
10:00 a.m. to noon*

**Oct 6**

**Troutdale's 100th Birthday  
Celebration  
noon- 4 p.m.**

*Groundbreaking for the  
Centennial Arch at noon,  
downtown Troutdale. Face  
painting, carnival games, free  
cake & ice cream, antique cars,  
live music, balloon artists,  
juggling stiltwalker, book  
signing by Sharon Nesbit and  
Clarence Mershon and much,  
much more!*

**Oct 13th**

**Museum Round Robin**

*Visit six area museums in one  
day, this will be a great time.  
See article page 2*

## **New Exhibit at Barn Museum**



**This  
buggy is  
believed  
to have  
been used  
by a  
Troutdale  
area doctor  
was do-  
nated by  
Troutdale  
citizen.**

**T**he Troutdale Historical Society will re-open the Barn Museum on October 2, 2007, with a new exhibit, *What Went By*. The official ribbon cutting will take place at 9 a.m. Five area schools have been invited to visit the new exhibit on Oct. 2 and 3.

If the weather permits, there will be some vintage cars at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

This exhibit which focuses on Troutdale's 100 year history, will open on Troutdale's actual 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The majority of the exhibit will be composed of vintage photos illustrating the influences the Columbia and

Sandy rivers, the Historic Columbia River Highway, the airport, and the railroad had on Troutdale's growth through the century.

In addition to the photos, people will enjoy two new murals painted by local artist Kathy Allegri, a display of antique farm implements, a horse drawn buggy, and a very special slide show comprised of over 200 photos from the historical society's extensive photo collection. Also the timeline exhibit, *Troutdale: It's about Time* will be reinstalled with the addition of a soundtrack.

For more information, contact: The Troutdale Historical Society 503-661-2164.

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## 2 From the Director's Chair

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by Terry Huston

### Does anyone have any flat oriental rugs they would like to loan to Harlow House?

**Call Jean Hybskmann at 503-669-7822.**

Once again there are so many people to thank this month. I think I have mentioned everyone in other parts of the newsletter, so I will not do so again. I hope you all know how much you are appreciated. The people I did not mention are **Mary Bryson, Jean Hybskmann and Ray Davenport** for their hard work in putting the new exhibit together at the Barn. Thank you, it is awesome. (If I forgot anyone, please forgive me. This month has been nuts around here).

As I have contemplated my parents 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration we held in June and now the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for Ike and June, I realize that the Huston "kids" and the Handy "kids" are lucky and in a very small

minority (from that era) that still have both parents with them. As boomers, we "kids" have an even longer life expectancy than our parents. What will we leave with our children?

I know that the Handy and Huston heritage has been passed on to the next generation, but how do you get the generation after that to care? This is a problem not only with families, but with Troutdale Historical Society and other organizations all over the country.

In our mobile society, we have people moving farther and more often. It is hard to get newcomers to care about the area when they have no connection to the past in there new city or town. I am amazed at the number of people who stop by the Depot, have lived here for years and had no idea that Troutdale has museums.

I have invited a group of people from David Douglas, Fairview/Rockwood/Wilkes, Gresham, Sandy, and Corbett/Springdale Historical Societies and the five museums in Hood River and Cascade Locks to attend a meeting on Oct. 20, 2007 at the General Store (9:00 a.m.) here in

Troutdale.

Response from the other groups has been fantastic. The group is to support each other's efforts, events and to try to come up with ways to involve new and younger members. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you have any ideas or would like to meet members from other organizations, please do come to this meeting. Call me at the Depot and let me add your name to list so we can have a head count for the restaurant.

Be sure and mark your calendar for Oct. 6 and come to town to help celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and have your picture taken at noon (near Handy's station) under the balloon arch that will become our permanent Centennial Arch.

AND, don't forget that the Troutdale School Reunion is on that day from 10 a.m. to noon at the Barn Museum.

**It will be a great day!**



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## Round Robin Museum Tour set for October 13

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On Saturday, October 13, 2007 the Troutdale Historical Society is hosting an event that has been dubbed as a *Museum Round Robin*. It will start at the Barn Museum in Troutdale at 732 E. Historic Columbia River Highway at 9:00 a.m. At 10:00 a.m. the bus will leave for the Springdale Museum, maintained by the Crown Point Country Historical Society. After

Springdale, the tour will go by way of back roads to the new Sandy Museum recently opened by the Sandy Historical Society in downtown Sandy. The next stop on the tour is Gresham Historical Society's Pioneer Museum on Main St. in Gresham and then on to Zimmerman Heritage Farm on 173<sup>rd</sup> & Sandy Blvd, the show place of the Rockwood/Fairview/Wilkes Historical Society. The

tour then concludes back at the Troutdale Historical Society's Harlow House Museum with refreshments on the porch.

Cost for the tour is \$10. This will be an all day event so bring a sack lunch and drink and join in the fun! Coolers will be provided.

For more information or to sign up, please call the Troutdale Historical Society at **503-661-2164**.

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## Elsie Simnitt Celebrates 90th Birthday with Family and Friends

**E**lsie Simnitt of Troutdale celebrated her 90th birthday Saturday evening, Aug. 18, at a garden party hosted by her family at the home of her grandson Jerry Simnitt Jr. and his wife, Roberta, in Canby.

Elsie was a mainstay for nearly 45 years at the Troutdale General Store, when it was owned by her brother, Roy Meger. She retired in 1995 but remains active in her garden and still grows her own raspberries for raspberry jam, her traditional Christmas gift.

She credits the grace of God and a "good daily routine, including work" as a secret to a long life, but adds, succinctly, "Real work will take the place of what is called exercise." She enjoys good food, believes in moderation and counsels that people should know when "enough is enough. Understand your body signals and act accordingly."

She was born Aug. 22, 1917, on her family farm in Jansen, Saskatchewan, Canada. Her mother died when she was two and her family came to Oregon in

1924. By the time she was in the third grade they had settled in Troutdale.

She graduated from Gresham High in 1936, marrying Kenneth James Simnitt on May 22 on the day she graduated. Her brother, Arthur, was the couple's best man.

"I was a homemaker until 1943 when our fourth child arrived and it soon became necessary to find additional income," she remembers. "We purchased acreage across the street and I farmed raspberries. When my brother, Roy, opened the Troutdale General Store, I went to work at the store." Simnitt said she raised her last two children under the cash register at the store. Her husband died in 1983. Over the years she enjoyed bowling, quilting with the women's society of Cherry Park Presbyterian Church where she has been a member for 80 years, and activities with her children including 4-H, scouting, swimming lessons and music lessons. Elsie is a member of the Troutdale Historical Society and will be



Elsie Simnitt at her birthday party

the subject of an interview by the society at its meeting on April 20, 2008.

Her children, and many of her 14 grandchildren and 34 great-grandchildren (she also has 5 great-great-grandchildren) helped serve and cook for her birthday, a dinner featuring family favorites, red cabbage and hot German potato salad, along with salmon and roast beef.

Her children are Darlene Alley of Gresham, Kenneth Simnitt Jr. of Tigard, Jerome Simnitt of Canby, Theodore Simnitt of Estacada, Nancy Simnitt of Troutdale and Debora Simnitt of Portland.

## Ike & June Handy Celebrate 70th Anniversary



Ike and June Handy

**W**hen Ike and June Handy said "I Do," in 1937, little did they know!

Their four sons (and families) gave the couple an open house celebration on Sept. 8 in the yard at their Troutdale home in honor of their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

With approximately 140 close friends, family and extended family, it was quite a party. (Not quite as loud as a McMenamins concert, but a good time was had by all).

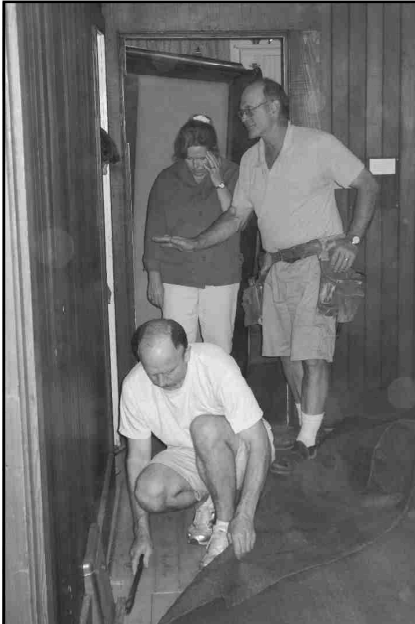
Don & Mary Mohn traveled from Montana and Ike & June's oldest son Dale and his wife Bonnie came from White Bear Lake in Minnesota.

We at Troutdale  
Historical  
Society  
want to wish  
Crystal Bayley  
a very Happy  
(and Belated)  
95th Birthday.

## The New Exhibit at the Barn



Kathy Allegri painting one of the two murals she is doing for the new Barn Exhibit, "What Went By," opening on Oct 2.



Sheryl and Max Maydew and Marvin Calhoun tear up old carpet in Harlow House.

## Floors Get a New Lease on Life at Harlow House

With the help of many, the furniture was moved and the old carpet at Harlow House is gone. There were several places where the carpet was not worn and those pieces have been saved to be cleaned and bound for area rugs in the house.

The floor has been sanded and refinished. Please stop by and take a look. We appreciate the work of all those behind the scenes that do some much work for Troutdale Historical Society. Thanks, to **Mario Ayala, Dave Ripma, Max & Sheryl Maydew, Marvin Calhoun (& Meg), Ray Davenport, Jean Ice** for carpet removal and moving furniture out at Harlow House.

Another thanks, to **Greg & Sue Handy, Jean & Jerry Hybskmann, Dan DeGraw & Heather Mitchoff, Dave Munson and John Williams** for moving the furniture back in on the new floors. (And for moving some diplsay pieces upstairs in the Barn).

A HUGE thank you to **Don Campbell, Mike Webster and Marvin Calhoun** for the hours they put in sanding and varnishing the floors. They donated their time for this project.

The Tuesday Ladies will be adding a quilt exhibit to Harlow House that will be unveiled on Oct. 2 along with the opening of the Barn Museum exhibit.



The wood underneath the old carpet is beautiful!

## A Train is Pulling Into the Depot Museum

The Depot Museum and End of the Line Store is getting a new addition. "Whistlestop" hobby shop is donating a train and track for inside the store. It will run along a track around the top of the store and will be a welcome addition for all of our little

engineers that visit our museum. Anyone who might have HO guage buildings, etc and would like to donate them, please call or drop them by the Depot.

Dave Munson will be doing the construction of the rail for the track to sit on. Thanks, Dave!



## The Barn has Been Painted



**Above:**  
Part of the huge amount of help, recruited by Chad Bangerter, that painted the Barn Museum Sept. 15.

**Above right:**  
Cupola being painted at the Barn by Jon Rex. Jon is a lineman and used to the heights. None of the kids wanted to go up on the roof...Thanks, Jon!



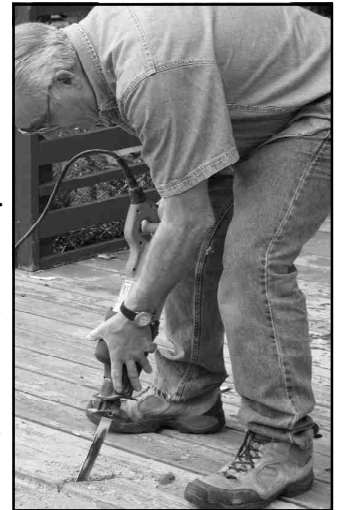
**Above:**  
Supervising the barn painting project are Benson, Tayson and Loggan Trujillo. Between them, they have 30 months experience.

## The Depot is Getting Painted

The Depot is getting painted sometime in Mid-October. It will be painted a two-tone gold color similar to the Canby Depot. The city is doing repairs to some of the vandalized boards and rotten wood in preparation for the painters to get started.

The painting project will not be done in time for the birthday celebration, but it will be protected before winter gets here. This will really brighten up our little corner of Troutdale.

**Mike Alderson, City of Troutdale employee, replaces rotten and uneven boards on the Depot Museum porch.**



**Mike Korst, City of Troutdale employee, updates light fixtures at the Depot.**



*Lots Goin' on at THS*

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## Sharon and Len Otto Lead Walking History Tour



Sharon Nesbit and Len Otto lead a walking History Tour of Troutdale on Sunday, Sept. 23.

There are two books missing from the Lewis & Clark book collection that was on display in the Barn. If you borrowed volume 1 or 12, please return them to the Depot so they can be catalogued into our collection.

## Tuesday Ladies Need Your Help For Christmas Open House

The Tuesday Ladies are getting ready for Christmas! They are asking for your help. If anyone has an old photo of Santa at Harlow House and would be willing to let us use it as part of the exhibit for the Harlow House Christmas Open House, please drop it by the Depot or email it to [terry@troutdalehistory.org](mailto:terry@troutdalehistory.org). If you lend us a hard copy, we will scan it and make sure you get the original back. We need all photos by Nov. 15. Thanks for your help.



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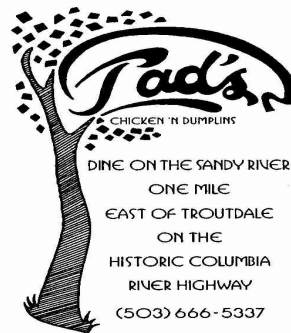
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# Scout chooses THS Barn as Eagle Scout Project <sup>7</sup>

Chad Bangerter, scout from troop #286, chose the THS Barn Museum to paint as his Eagle Scout Project. On Sat. Sept. 15, Chad and 53 family members, friends and fellow church members from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints descended on the barn and had it painted in a matter of hours.

Chad received his inspiration for the idea from Sharon Nesbit and also received a lot of help from the local business community; **Onboard Systems** donated a 12 foot ladder and individual paint containers, **Mt. Hood Community College Aquatic Center** donated the use of the pressure washer and **Scott at Miller Paint (the Grand Ave. store)** sold THS the paint for vendor cost and arranged for it to be picked up at the Gresham store. **Brandon at the Gresham Miller Paint store** organized everything for pickup.

More help came from **Olympic**

**Gym and the City of Troutdale** who donated the use of ladders, along with **Sun Belt Rental** who donated the scissor lift (thanks, Van)!

Chad's parents fed the entire crew throughout the day. We wish to thank all of the vendors who helped with this project and the individuals below who stepped forward to help Chad with this project. They are: **Bruce Bangerter, Diane Bangerter, Jake Bangerter, Joe Anderson, Steve Davis, Justin Holmes, Andy Trujillo, Kyle Eliason, Jefferson Harmon, Jordan Rust, Morgan Robinson, Logan Rust, Jacob Rust, Taylor Robinson, Chris Miller, Chris Card, Jordan Yamashita, Brandon Bangerter, Dan Marshall, Bart Bangerter, Dane Christiansen, Gerald Stephan, Darrell Bangerter, Jeannett Bangerter, Jon Rex, Ron Budge, Austin Alford, Chuck Beckley, Jon Scott, Eric Scott, Rachel Trujillo,**



Chad Bangerter taping off light fixtures in preparation for painting the Barn Museum

**Matt Lents, Mike Card, Jeff Card, Spencer Card, Tabitha Card, Trinity Card, Gary Wood, Shad Wood, Ashley Stephan, Guy James, Michael Dudley, Anna Gaittens, Elder Hendricks (missionary), Elder Carroll (missionary), Joe Maddux, Omar Rachdi, Abe Rachdi, Joyce Seare, Roswell Seare, Tom Mitchell and Lindsay Paris.** A GIANT thank you to all!

**Len Otto**


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Troutdale, OR 97060  
Phone 503-661-2164  
www.troutdalehistory.org

### **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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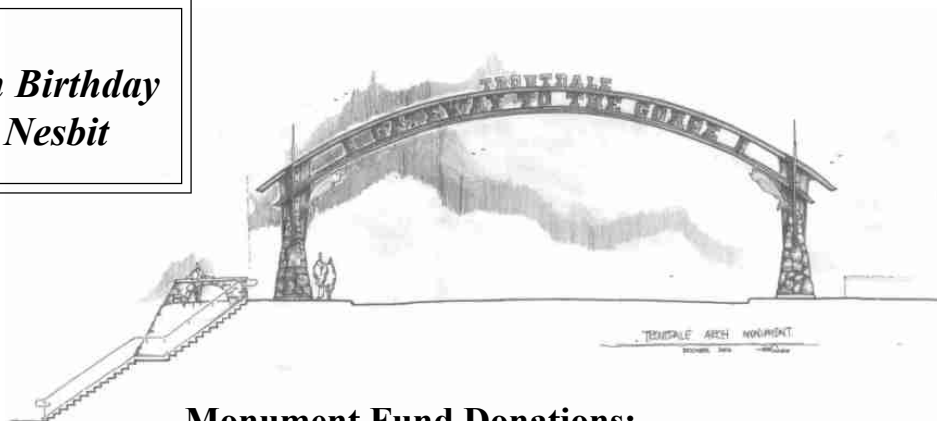
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**Our Thanks...from THS...to the following for their support**

### **In Honor of:**

***Elsie Simnitt's 90th Birthday  
~from Sharon Nesbit***



### **Monument Fund Donations:**

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