



BYGONE TIMES

A Newsletter of the TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

February Meeting Annual Election of Officers, Also Features Sally Donovan, Historic Preservation Consultant

February 2001

On February 18 at 2 p.m. in City Hall, THS will be electing officers, including two open board positions. Sheryl Maydew and Florence Baker's positions are both open. Florence has been serving as our Vice President and wants to "retire," although we aren't going to let her get away too easy! Sheryl resigned half-way through her term due to personal reasons. Officers will also be voted on. If you are interested in serving on the THS Board, we would welcome you!

Sally Donovan will be with us to share her knowledge about the Gorge, the Hicklin farm and the Sandy River Delta. Sally is a historic preservation consultant and has worked on many fascinating projects that we know you will want to hear more about!

February is also birthday month, so come with your sweet tooth for cake and coffee! You may also pay your dues at the meeting. If you would like to volunteer to make a cake, please call Jan Vandiver at (503) 665-4854.

Legacy Gift Comes to THS from Strebin Trust

Vera Strebin established a charitable remainder trust with half of the Strebin Farm on Troutdale Road and Stark Street, and named Sam Cox, David Ripma and Sharon Nesbit as trustees to oversee and administer it on behalf of her son, Robert Strebin, Jr. (Ultimately the trust land will be willed to the Troutdale Historical Society and the City of Troutdale.) When she established the trust, Vera stipulated that the land continue to be used for farming—good news for those of us who like to see berry fields! Currently the farm is leased to Fujii Farms. "When we talk about planned giving—future gifts to our historical society—this is what it's all about," said Sharon Nesbit, society historian. "It has taken a lot of foresight and much work for the Strebin family to put this together, but the end result is that the history and the museums of this community will ultimately have a solid financial base. We can tell our Troutdale story for a long, long time."

Vera Strebin was a good and faithful member of our society. She particularly like our Treks and taveled with us as often and as long as she was able. Her son, Bob Strebin, was named our Preservationist of the Year in 1998, and finished up the Barn after the death of Dick Jones. He also saw our first professional exhibit (on smelt) installed and continues to work with the society on the upcoming Lewis & Clark exhibit.

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, February 7
7 p.m. at The Barn
Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 14
10 to Noon
Valentine's Day at the
Harlow House

Sunday, February 18
2 p.m. at City Hall
Columbia River Gorge
Sally Donovan

Sunday, March 18
2 p.m. at City Hall
Steamboats on the Columbia
Keith McCoy

IN INCLEMENT WEATHER, EVENTS ARE
AUTOMATICALLY CANCELED.

Please Note April Program Date Change

April's program featuring an interview with Ike and June Handy has been moved from Sunday, April 15th (due to Easter Sunday) to **MONDAY, APRIL 16th, 7 p.m. in City Hall**. If you have questions or concerns, please call Laura at (503) 661-2164.

How Do I Know if I Owe? If you see a star next to your mailing label, you owe dues! See page 5.

From *Laura* at the Harlow House

Since most of you have been associated with THS for many years, you all know that February is membership renewal time. I know that you know what membership means to the society and the benefits that it brings to you. But how much do you really know? Hopefully you'll indulge me and take this little pop quiz! (I've learned this trick from Mary Bryson, who gave some poor third graders a little scavenger hunt for the barn when they visited not too long ago!)

Which of the following are ways that you can support the Troutdale Historical Society and our mission?

- | True | False | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Renewing your membership. |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Volunteering at the Harlow House. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Contributing to the endowment fund. |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Serving on the Steering Committee. |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Purchasing a gift membership for someone's birthday or anniversary. |
| 6. <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Applying for a matching gift from your company. |
| 7. <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Donating stock. |
| 8. <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Encouraging friends and family to become members of THS. |
| 9. <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Including THS in your estate plans. |
| 10. <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Saving green stamps. |
| 11. <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Contributing items to our collection. |
| 12. <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Donating a copy of your memoir or a family member's memoir. |
| 13. <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Serving on the board of directors. |
| 14. <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Being a <i>Tuesday Lady</i> . |

If you answered "true" to all of these questions, you are a genius! I made this easy for you because **all** of the above are different ways you can support THS and our mission. And, in the true fashion of quizzes, let's review the answers. **1.** Renewing your membership is the easiest way. Membership provides the society with operating dollars that cover the cost of your monthly newsletter, but it also provides you benefits: free admission to our museums, discounted membership to the Oregon Historical Society, and this year you will see some invitations for "members only" events. **2.** Volunteering at the Harlow House, even if it is just once a year, is almost as easy as renewing your membership. As a volunteer, you will probably learn something new about the house or its occupants and you will probably get some visitors that will learn something about Troutdale from you. **3.** Contributing to the endowment fund ensures for the future of the historical society. Right now, our endowment is near \$50,000. The larger our endow-

ment, the more stable funding will be for the future of the society. **4.** Steering committees do not call themselves "steering" for nothing! To steer is to guide the course. If you have interest in guiding our course, we have place for you! **5.** Gift memberships are excellent for those hard-to-shop-for people in your life. Several people I know got them for Christmas this year! **6.** Even if you are retired, your company might have a matching gift program in which they will match your gift to THS. Sometimes companies match 1:1, sometimes 2:1. If you don't know if your employer has something like this, it doesn't hurt to ask! **7.** Stocks, bonds and listing THS as the beneficiary on life insurance policies or IRAs, are all things that can be donated to THS for a tax deduction. **8.** Friends and family who lived here or still live here should be members! They are part of our history and we want them to share our mission. **9.** Including THS in your will provides not only for our future but shows what is important to you. **10.** Green

GIFTS TO THS

Thank you for your support!

Bonnie Irwin, Lola Fellman, Lois Moller, Jeanne Pulliam, Nelda Radak and Kay Struckman

In Honor of Walt and Vi Nasmyth

Helen Wand

In Honor of Robert Strebin, Jr.

Sharon Nesbit

Dave Ripma

stamps have provided THS with many things in the past including a camera, ladder and other wonderful things that we needed but didn't have to purchase. **11.** Our military exhibit this fall was a great success and we added many fascinating things to our collection! **12.** Family memoirs or correspondence that tell or show about daily life in/ around Troutdale are a great source of information for future generations! In the past month we have received some wonderful books from our members that they have put together about their lives and growing up or living in Troutdale or the surrounding area. **13.** Serving on the board and directing the future of THS is an important position, but also rewarding as we continue to grow and educate others about Troutdale! **14.** *Tuesday Ladies* work at the Harlow House on Tuesday mornings. They are the force behind rotating our exhibits and providing merriment too!

I hope my quiz wasn't too hard and I hope you found something new that you didn't know before! As always, feel free to call me if you have any questions (503-661-2164) and if you're in the neighborhood, stop in!

Ice Cream Social in Need of Chairperson

The 34th Annual Ice Cream Social, slated for June 2 and 3, is in need of an organizer. Interested? Please call Laura at (503) 661-2164.

How Do I Know if I Owe? If you see a star next to your mailing label, you owe dues! See page 5.

Historic Preservation in 2001 and Beyond

The Troutdale Historical Society is a member of the Historic Preservation League of Oregon, the only group in Oregon totally dedicated to saving historic properties. HPLO, as we call it, was our **ONLY** friend for much of the fight to save Edgefield Manor and it was their board member, preservation architect Al Staehli, who helped us prepare a National Register nomination and testified to the Troutdale Planning Commission. Al saved the day more than once.

Since those days, Oregon's preservation laws have been seriously weakened by property right groups. A recent example was the near-demolition of Oregon's only Frank Lloyd Wright house. The house was unprotected, except for being on a Clackamas County list of historic sites. When the property owner, who wanted to tear it down and build a new house, asked that it be removed from the list, the county did so without comment or hearing. The alarm was sounded only because an architect called to work on the site took the matter to the public. He could not bear to be a part of destroying such a house without at least some consideration.

Our friends at HPLO tell us that this year we will have two chances to make a difference at the legislature. One will be to secure sustained funding of heritage issues in Oregon

through the Oregon Cultural Trust. If we ask our legislators to fully fund that trust, we can do much for historic properties in Oregon.

The other issue is Oregon's Special Assessment for Historic Properties, which expires this year. The special assessment freezes taxes on sites that are on the National Register of Historic Places, permitting owners a tax savings to apply to restoration. The tax freeze is for 15 years. Such incentives help owners shore up old buildings and put them back in use. McMenamins' Edgefield is a classic example and though its property taxes are frozen for a few more years, its success is bringing other taxes into our community now. And it will be a vital part of our tax rolls in the future.

You can help by talking or writing to your state legislator or by making a tax-deductible gift to the Historic Preservation League of Oregon, P.O. Box 40053, Portland, OR 97240, to aid their campaign for these proven programs.

-Submitted by Sharon Nesbit

Harlow House Happenings

January was pretty quiet around the Harlow House, but those who stopped by marveled at the ruby glass collection on loan to the museum from Doneva Shepard, so beautifully set off by the new lights!

Harlow House will be open on Wednesday, February 14 for a special finale of the ruby glass exhibit. Doneva will be here from 10 a.m. to Noon to share about the collection. Tea and sweets will be provided. Bring a loved one and celebrate Valentine's Day with us!

A big thank you to Terry Smoke, THS board member, for donating some large shelving units that will be used upstairs in the barn. They are sturdy enough to hold some of our larger artifacts that have been lounging around on the floor!

We also had a visit from Sweetbrier Tiger Pack #177, a group of first grade boys, who livened things up! They thought the house was "cool," especially the basement, which isn't part of the usual tour, but their excitement was hard to resist! They ran off their extra energy after the tour by hiking Robin's Way!

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of Barbara Ripma
Dave Ripma
Sharon Nesbit

**In Memory of
Robert and Vera Strebin, Sr.**
Sharon Nesbit
Dave Ripma

In Memory of Ted Schulte
Bob and Louise Dix
Walt and Clover Nasmyth
Sharon Nesbit
Harvey and Betty Wieprecht

In Remembrance

John Kordosky died in January at the age of 62. He and his wife, Nancy, were THS members for many years, and formerly lived in the Emil Oleson home, the historic house that is now the Cedarplace Bed and Breakfast. John was a woodworker and made the quilt rack we use at the Harlow House. **Bob Rittel** died just before Christmas. He and his wife, Joan, have been members for many years. They founded the Zarephath Kitchen, a facility that provides a free noon-day meal next to Trinity Lutheran Church.

Helen Hood Tuttle also passed away in December. Born on Government Island, on the Columbia River, she was a Gresham school teacher for 20 years. Several years ago Helen and Dick Bartlett, another island resident, provided us with some historic photo of area schools and also gave us a wonderful history on early homesteading on Government Island. Her most vivid story was about the women on the island who called themselves "The Columbia River Packers." To go to the grocery store, the women of the island drove to the dock on the north side of the island, boarded a boat, rowed across the river to Fisher's Landing east of Vancouver, took another car and drove to the store, shopped, loaded the car, drove back to Fisher's Landing, unloaded the car into the boat, rowed back across the river, unloaded the boat and took the groceries to the island car, drove the car home and unloaded the groceries one last time to take them into the house. "It was quite a trip," Helen said. A considerable understatement.

Do you have photos
or memories
of seals in the Sandy?
We would like
to talk to you!
Please call Laura
at (503) 661-2164.

Murdock Trust Invites THS to Apply for Depot Renovation Support

For quite awhile now, THS has been collaborating with the Troutdale Chamber of Commerce on a new idea. With Marge Schmunk and her gang done in the Depot, THS is in need of staffing for the Rail Depot Museum and End of the Line Museum Store. The growing Chamber is in need of more office space.

Thus came the idea of the Chamber occupying the now empty half of the Depot that was formerly occupied by the city Parks Department. In return, the Chamber staff would be available for visitors who wanted to visit the Rail Depot Museum. However, things are never that easy!

The Depot is in need of some renovations, mostly in the form of a new heating system and insulation. Since neither group is prepared to fund such a large renovation project, the city joined with the two groups on a grant writing spree to fund the \$280,000 needed. Good news came at the end of January when the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust responded to our letter of inquiry and invited the project to apply for a \$75,000 grant, which the Chamber will be completing. The city will also be applying for the bulk of the remainder of the project through a community initiative grant funded by the state.

Cooperative efforts such as this are greatly favored by grant making sources and having three organizations involved also divides the work load in a process that can be time consuming, but obviously worth it!

A Little Piece of History

Submitted by member Connie Purvis, who came across this from the Sunshine Courier in Sunshine, Boulder County, Colorado.

January 6, 1877 - "The electoral vote of Florida is under-going a recanvass (sic)"

February 20, 1877 - "The electoral vote of Colorado was peacefully counted. But, Florida was referred to the tribunal."

Pasta and Praise for Marge Schmunk, Keeper of the Depot

At the January Board of Directors meeting, **Marge Schmunk** and her volunteer group were honored for their service at the Rail Depot Museum for the past five years.

When Marge agreed to take over the Depot, she made it clear that it was for a term of five years, and true to her word, at the end of December, she turned in her keys! Marge was honored with a photo of the Depot overlaid with a certificate honoring her and her husband Ed.

Presented with smaller versions of the award were **Jim and Betty Cook, Harley and Carolyn Taylor and Bill and Darline Payne.**

The group was also toasted with Poor Farm Pinot Gris, an appropriate touch we thought!

Jean Hybskmann made the group a wonderful spaghetti dinner, with **Mona Mitchoff, Jean Holman and Sharon Nesbit** contributing the rest of the meal.

Thank You Adrienne Clausen for Service as Volunteer Coordinator

After a year of serving as Volunteer Coordinator for the Harlow House and Barn Museums, Adrienne has decided to take a well deserved break, but you can still find her serving as a Harlow House Host! Our sincere thanks, Adrienne. A job very well done!

Upcoming Exhibits

The *Tuesday Ladies* will be preparing exhibits in the City Hall in March for Women's History Month and in May for Asian History Month. If you have articles or stories you would like to contribute, please call Laura at (503) 661-2164.

Wild Ride Down the Gorge Keeps Horses From Freeway

The year was 1950 or 1951 and the new Interstate Highway was due to open any day. There was one more thing that needed to be done before the highway could open—the remnants of the once abundant herd of wild horses must be rounded up and removed from the area taken over by the new highway.

The Multnomah County Sheriffs, conveniently located at 12-mile Corner, were to be in charge of the removal of the horses. They had called on me in the past to help them round up stray livestock as they sauntered around after breaking through farmer's fences. So, they called me this time asking for some "extra backup" to help drive the herd through the brush into a corral.

The corral was the base of the bluff closest to Troutdale. And, the horses were at the far east side of the canyon by the old Luscher farm...as far from the men building the corral as they could get. We rode a very long time to get to the other side of the horses in order to drive them back to the corral. I could only find one friend adventurous enough to join me on this horse roundup, Eddie Hagen. He lived on Isabel Zimmerman's property with the Christ Schlunegger family. The Schluneggers had a brown Swiss dairy and Eddie was a foster child who lived with them as their own child. But, he was very much like a brother to me.

We rode and chatted and pretty soon we rode up on the horses. As soon as they saw us, they huddled together, threw their heads and tails in the air

and snorted loudly. They started to run—our horses immediately set into motion to chase them.

Our ride back to the corral was much faster than our ride toward the horses. We were covering ground as fast as our horses could go but still, it was hard to keep up with the wild horses. Our horses were not accustomed to the terrain and the wild horses had chosen their own path—



Doneva Shepard, a former rodeo queen pictured here in 1951, has recently become fascinated with the stories about rodeo star Lorena Trickey of Corbett and hopes to write about her.

through the young trees. The trees slapped at my face and body so I lay down as close as I could get to my horse's body. I knew she knew what to do. I gave up the reigns and just hung on for dear life. Eddie did the same. Soon we were laying out flat as the young trees were slapping our legs and several times I was nearly pulled off. It was the "hairiest" ride I'd ever been on.

There were five of them. The lead stallion was huge old apaloosa, feet the size of dinner

plates and lots of hair up to the back of the knees. Probably a remnant of Chief Joseph's herd. The mares were mixed colors. Breathtakingly beautiful as they run free, but they somehow lose their appeal standing in a corral or barn. Darting through the trees ahead of me, it was one of the most spectacular sights I'd ever seen. This giant old stallion had his head up, terror in his eyes, watching every move we made as he darted unscathed through the new trees. I could only imagine what it must have been like 50 or 100 years earlier when there were herds of 100 or more. They must have kept the brush eaten down. Now, as there were fewer horses, the new trees were coming on strong!

The horses had no choice, the corral awaited them. They ran in smoothly and the gate closed behind them. When they realized their dilemma, they protested violently, screaming, snorting, rearing, ears laid back and charging, but the deed was done; they would no longer roam free in the home they had known for so long. It was the end of an era.

I pleaded with the sheriff's officers. Wasn't there some way they could be free to roam? Couldn't they do something? But, the answer was no. They would be responsible for car wrecks on the freeway. I had never experienced a freeway, so I couldn't comprehend, but I realize now it was essential for progress.

I'm not proud that I was responsible for the eradication of wild horses in the gorge, but I am so thankful I have the memory of that, the most spectacular ride of my life.

-Submitted by Doneva Shepard



Troutdale Historical Society
104 S.E. Kibling Street
Troutdale, OR 97060

Thank You New Members!

Bob and Janette Newton

How Do I Know if I Owe?

If you see a star next to your mailing label, you owe dues! See page 5.

Troutdale Historical Society

Mailing Address

104 S.E. Kibling Street
Troutdale, OR 97060
(503) 661-2164
Fax: (503) 674-2995

E-mail Address

Troutdale_Historical_Society@juno.com

Inside THS

Laura Newton, Director
Mary Bryson, Curator
Sharon Nesbit, Historian
Doneva Shepard, Photo Librarian

Harlow House & Barn

726 E. Historic Columbia River Highway
Phone: (503) 661-2164
HOURS: 1 to 4 p.m., Saturday & Sunday

Rail Depot Museum

473 E. Historic Columbia River Highway
Phone: (503) 667-8268
HOURS: Closed for the Winter

**BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TROUTDALE, OR
PERMIT No. 5**

THANK YOU!

Thank you to January Harlow House Hosts:

Adrienne Clausen, Mario Ayala and Florence Baker

If you would like more information on volunteering for THS, please call Laura Newton at (503) 661-2164. Volunteer and bring a friend!

Spring Trek is May 12

Can't think of anything to give Mom for Mother's Day this year? How about a trip with the Troutdale Historical Society! This Trek will be taking us to the Hallie Ford Museum of Art at Willamette University in Salem, Mission Mill Museum, as well as the Paul Jensen Arctic Museum in Monmouth on the Western Oregon University campus.

If you have never been on a Trek before, make this your first trip! Led by Sharon Nesbit, you can bet that it will not only be educational, but also a real hoot!



For thirty three years, membership dues have been an important part of our ability to continue to preserve the history of Troutdale, the Sandy River and the Columbia River Gorge. If you are not currently a member, now is a great time to join! Unsure if you already paid your dues for this year? If you have a star near the mailing label on the front of this newsletter, you do indeed owe for 2001. If no star, then no dues for this year. Thank you for supporting the Troutdale Historical Society!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Type of Membership:

- ☐ \$12 - Individual
- ☐ \$15 - Couple
- ☐ \$20 - Family
- ☐ \$50 - Director's Club Individual
- ☐ \$75 - Director's Club Couple

Interested in a gift membership for a friend or loved one? See the reverse side for more information.

Enclosed is my:

☐ Check, made payable to Troutdale Historical Society

☐ Visa or Mastercard Cardholder Name: _____

Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____

(You may also call or fax in your credit card information. Our phone is (503) 661-2164 and the fax is (503) 674-2995.)

Please return this form with payment to:

Troutdale Historical Society

104 S.E. Kibling Street

Troutdale, OR 97060

Please help us evaluate our services.

In order to keep providing you with quality programs and services, it would be helpful if you would take a few minutes to fill this out and return it with your membership dues. Thank you!

Newsletter

If you have e-mail, would you like to receive newsletters electronically? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have suggestions for the newsletter? _____

Volunteer Opportunities

Are you interested in volunteering as a host at the Harlow House? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, how often? ☐ Once a month ☐ Once a quarter ☐ Once a year

If no, would you be interested in other volunteer opportunities for the Society? ☐ Yes ☐ No

During summer hours at the Harlow House (June thru September), would you be willing to be a host at the Harlow House one day a month? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have or know students who need volunteer opportunities to fulfill a school requirement?

Would volunteering with THS fulfill their requirement? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you be willing to partner with a student while hosting at the Harlow House? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Programs/Facilities

In the past year, how many times did you visit:

Harlow House? ☐ None ☐ 1 to 3 ☐ more than 4

Barn Museum? ☐ None ☐ 1 to 3 ☐ more than 4

Rail Depot Museum? ☐ None ☐ 1 to 3 ☐ more than 4

How many Sunday programs have you attended in the last year? ☐ None ☐ 1 ☐ 2 or 3 ☐ Almost all

How many other THS events did you attend in the last year? ☐ Ice Cream Social ☐ Harvest Fair

☐ Spring or Fall Trek ☐ Board Meeting ☐ Cemetery Tour ☐ Cedar School Reunion ☐ Other

Do you have ideas about future programs you would like to see offered? _____

When hosting out-of-town guests, do you make the Harlow House part of their visit? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Other Suggestions

If you have concerns or suggestions on any of the topics listed above, please let us know.

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

Please send a gift membership to the Troutdale Historical Society to:

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Type of Membership: ☐ \$12 - Individual

Type of Membership: ☐ \$12 - Individual

☐ \$15 - Couple

☐ \$15 - Couple

☐ \$20 - Family

☐ \$20 - Family